

Hawke senses election victory

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA (AP) — Prime Minister Bob Hawke said Sunday it appeared his Labour Party had prevailed in parliamentary elections, while opponent Andrew Peacock conceded that his conservative coalition had probably been beaten. Saturday's parliamentary vote was a hard-fought contest between Hawke's ruling party and Peacock's coalition. Hawke, speaking a day after the vote, told a television interviewer he would be able to rule even with a one-seat majority. "I hope it's a bit better than that. It will give a sense of discipline for sure and we can do it," said Hawke, 60, who has been prime minister for seven years. Peacock, 51, who led the Liberal Party in an opposition coalition with the National Party, initially said he too was confident of forming the next government. But later Sunday, he acknowledged that his coalition would probably fall short. "If you are setting a book I suggest the shortest odds would be on a hung parliament, followed then by a Labour government just ahead of a possibility of a coalition government," Peacock told reporters in Melbourne. It was Peacock's second bid for the prime ministership.

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House panel condemns U.S. Senate resolution

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament's foreign affairs committee Sunday met under the chairmanship of Taher Maari, and listened to a briefing by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem on Jordan's diplomatic moves on the Arab and international arenas to counter the dangers inherent in Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine. The committee noted with surprise and dissatisfaction a resolution adopted by the United States Senate acknowledging Jerusalem as the "capital of Israel." The committee condemned the position and declared that it was inconsistent with the United Nations resolutions in this regard. The committee stressed the need for making an intensive international effort aimed at exposing this position and explaining its implications.

Assad returns home from Libya

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad returned Sunday from a visit to Libya marking the 20th anniversary of Britain's evacuation of its last Libyan base, officials said. They said Assad had talks with Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi shortly before departing. "The discussions covered the situation in the Arab arena in light of new world developments and the dangers threatening the national interests of the Arab Nation and the best ways of confronting these dangers," one official said. While in Libya Assad also had talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Damascus said Cairo resumed diplomatic ties last December after more than a decade of strained relations.

Students stage protest in S. Yemen

ADEN (R) — Agitators shot at policemen during a student demonstration in South Yemen, seriously wounding one officer, the Interior Ministry said Sunday. A statement said "anti-democracy elements" infiltrated the peaceful demonstration Saturday in Al Mukalla, east of Aden, and fired at police on guard nearby. It did not say why the students were demonstrating but press reports said they wanted changes in the educational system.

U.S. Visa fraud case in Tel Aviv

TEL AVIV (AP) — Five former employees of the U.S. embassy in Tel Aviv and 12 other Israelis were charged Sunday with allegedly taking part in a scheme to counterfeit U.S. entry visas, Israel media said. The 17 are accused of conspiring in a counterfeit ring that forged hundreds of entry visas in exchange for hundreds of thousands of dollars, the news agency Itim said, quoting formal charges filed Sunday. It said some of the visas were given to Israelis who had been barred from entering the United States because of criminal records. A U.S. embassy spokesman could not be reached for immediate comment, but U.S. officials said no Americans were believed involved when the alleged ring first came to light with arrests last September.

Groups issue threats in Tunisia

ANKARA (AP) — Two Muslim fundamentalist groups have threatened to kill personnel of the U.S., Turkish, Japanese, Dutch and Yugoslavian embassies in Tunisia, Turkey's semi-official Anatolia news agency reported Sunday. The agency said Turkish Ambassador Metin Karaca in Tunis told Anatolia by phone that the death threats by Islamic Revenge Organisation and Nahda were made in letters mailed to the embassies. It did not say when the letters were received. Karaca was quoted as saying the letters also threatened Tunisian Education Minister Mohammad Carfi, who is known to have secular views.

Upper House members lash out at American Senate resolution

By Sa'd G. Hattar
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Members of the Upper House of Parliament (Senate) Sunday described as "biased and illogical" a resolution adopted Thursday by the U.S. Senate recognising occupied Jerusalem as the "capital of Israel" and called on the U.S. lawmakers to reconsider their country's vital interests in the Arab World.

A Senate member, however, said the impact of such a resolution on the Middle East peace process hinged on the reaction of the administration of George Bush which has adopted a "balanced and encouraging stance on the Middle East conflict."

The U.S. Senate resolution, which is not binding on the U.S. administration, acknowledges Jerusalem as the "capital of the state of Israel" and was adopted by voice vote.

Ahmad Al Lawazi, speaker of the Jordanian Senate, told the Jordan Times the resolution reflected a "clear hegemony of the

Zionist lobby worldwide and Israel's influence in the American Senate."

"It also contradicts the U.S. role and responsibilities as a superpower towards bringing about a just settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict," Lawzi said.

He added that the decision came in sharp contrast to "the principles on which the American people based their constitution and human rights norms." He said the U.S. should play a "balanced and just role in its approach to all peoples, including the Palestinians and the Jews."

The Senate speaker said Jordan viewed the status of Jerusalem as the parameter for reaching a negotiated settlement. The Holy City should enjoy a "just status" to maintain the rights of the Palestinian people and "the rights of the followers of Islam, Christianity and Judaism," he said.

Hamad Al Farhan, rapporteur of the Senate's Foreign Affairs Committee, said the U.S. Senate resolution had no "logical, political or moral justification."

"It is rather a recurrent phenomenon," he said. "A prejudiced stance dictated by the Zionist lobby and it could best be dubbed anti-Palestinianism." It is also a "new proof that the highest body in the American democracy succumbs to Zionist pressures."

Zionist pressure, Farhan added, made "American legislators get carried away" to reach an "unjust, illogical and historically groundless resolution that is opposed to peace moves."

Farhan, a veteran political activist, questioned "the folly behind the resolution's contents" and said it was "strong, humiliating and perilous to the Arab and Palestinian rights."

Emphasising that the "main reason" behind the adoption of the resolution was Arab disunity, Farhan called for "a strong, deterrent reaction, both on the official and the popular levels, that reaches American interests in the region."

Ja'far Shami said the resolution did not come as a surprise as

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Israeli soldiers, Palestinian students clash in Nablus

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops clashed with Palestinian students in the occupied West Bank city of Nablus on Sunday during rallies to mark the deaths of two nationalists killed by soldiers, residents said.

The 120,000 Nablus residents declared a day of mourning after the army lifted a three-day curfew, clamped Thursday when troops shot dead two Palestinians wanted for suspected involvement in the 27-month-old uprising.

Residents said some 1,000 students attended two campus rallies to mark the deaths of Nasser Al Kanaer, 28, and Ibrahim Abu Ghadib, 19. They said scores suffered from gas inhalation but sources said no one was injured in the clashes.

Military sources said troops shot and wounded two Palestinians in separate clashes in Nablus, the largest city in the West Bank.

In the West Bank town of Ramallah, soldiers shot and wounded an 18-year-old during stone-throwing protests, residents said.

In the occupied Gaza Strip, troops wounded two Palestinians, including a 17-year-old girl hit by

a bullet in the face, hospital officials said.

On Saturday, a six-year-old Palestinian boy was shot in the head as his family was tilling land near a West Bank Jewish settlement, and his parents said he was shot by settlers, the army said.

Tarek Mustapha Al Halabi was brought to Mokassed hospital in Arab Jerusalem in critical condition and underwent an operation to remove a bullet that entered his skull above his left eye, hospital officials said.

The boy's parents said they were working their land near their village of Rujfieb, two kilometres south of Nablus, when two settlers shot at their son, the army and reporters said.

Reporters said Palestinian youths had apparently thrown stones at the settlers car and the Israelis opened fire hitting Halabi in the head.

The army said the incident occurred near the Israeli settlement of Itamar but that no troops were in the area at the time of the shooting. It said police were investigating the incident.

It was the second reported shooting of a Palestinian child in less than 24 hours. An eight-month-old infant girl was also shot in the head late Friday night

in the West Bank village of Farna, but neither the army or reporters knew how she was wounded. Police are investigating that incident as well, the army said.

Elsewhere Saturday, a large army force backed by helicopters raided the village of Anabta in the West Bank and rounded up dozens of Palestinian activists suspected of violent activity, the army said.

Officer suspended

An Israeli army captain has been suspended on suspicion of having an affair with a Palestinian girl, military sources said Sunday. They said the captain maintained he was trying to recruit the girl, whose reported age varied from 15 to 20, as an informer in the town of Beit Jalla near Bethlehem.

"He has been removed from his post as a company commander in the West Bank and is being investigated," one military source said.

Asked if regulations allowed soldiers to have personal contact with Palestinians, he added: "Certainly not the type of personal contact we are talking about here."

Peres' political fortunes rest with 96-year-old sage

TEL AVIV (R) — A 96-year-old sage gives a rare public speech to disciples Monday that could make Labour Party leader Shimon Peres Israel's next prime minister.

Rabbi Eliezer Schach, a bearded, black-coated pacifist who controls eight votes in parliament, could end a legislative deadlock to put Peres in charge of a government which says it wants to make peace with Palestinians. Schach, whose influence extends far beyond his secluded life in Bnei Brak near Tel Aviv, has backed headline Likud bloc Premier Yitzhak Shamir. But Peres is praying for a miracle change-of-heart from a fellow dove.

"Holy Monday" screamed the newspaper Hadashot in an editorial heralding the event, which was certain to pack a Tel Aviv basketball arena seating 10,000 and at least two conference halls in other cities where the speech will be broadcast.

"The fate of the administration will be determined, almost certainly, by an old man cloistered in Bnei Brak," moaned the daily Yedioth Ahronoth, assailing a political system giving religious parties control over a secular majority.

With support for Labour and Likud evenly split in the 120-seat legislature, a switch by any one of the Lithuanian-born rabbi's eight followers in parliament would give Peres a vote of confidence.

The eight come from the ultra-religious Shas and Degel Hatorah parties. He founded both parties, but Shas draws votes from North African Sephardic Jews and Degel attracts European Ashkenazi Jews.

Peres, 66, was directed by President Chaim Herzog to form a government last week after a broad coalition headed by Shamir, 74, collapsed over Shamir's refusal to accept U.S. proposals for first-ever Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

Schach has yet to explain why he rejects Peres despite their similar views on ceding occupied land in return for peace. Followers were kept guessing whether the speech would offer an answer.

"Any speech by rabbi Schach is dramatic and important. The content is unknown in advance and nobody knows what rabbi Schach will say," spokesman Benny Rabinowitz told reporters.

"But generally when we speak of public speeches, rabbi Schach

relates to matters of importance. As I said in the past for us politics goes to the heart of Jewish law and of course there is nothing like peace," the spokesman said.

Anticipating foreign press demands, Rabinowitz promised simultaneous English translation of the rabbi's Hebrew speech. But women journalists complained they were being excluded from the all-male event.

Dismissing discrimination charges, Rabinowitz said there was no way to have them in the packed arena without offending the rabbi's followers who refuse to sit with women. He said women could view the speech by remote broadcast.

It remained to be seen whether the event would be attended by rabbi Ovadia Yosef, a 70-year-old sage also revered by Shas, after a reported falling-out last week over Yosef's televised slap in the face at Shamir over peace moves.

On Sunday Shamir summoned his cabinet, truncated by the departure of the Labour Party, for talks on Soviet Jewish immigration, while Peres wooed the religious Agudat Israel party with enticements of jobs and more public Jewish observances.

Deputies seek extraordinary session

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament has sent a memorandum to His Majesty King Hussein seeking his approval to convene a three-month extraordinary session of the House starting May 5 to discuss various pressing issues, including consumer prices, unemployment, corruption and financial mismanagement.

The memorandum was signed by more than two thirds of the 80-member Lower House, according to Abdul Latif Arabiyat, spokesman for the Islamist bloc in the House, quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The regular term of the House is scheduled to end later this month, and the second regular session will open in October. However, constitutional provisions stipulate that the King could convene Parliament to meet in an extraordinary session dedicated to issues specified by the Monarch.

The House has to study dozens of temporary laws enacted by the government in the absence of parliamentary life in the Kingdom, and many observers said some of them could take weeks of debate on the House floor. In past years, the House met in extraordinary sessions under royal decree to discuss, amend, approve or reject

laws.

In his statement carried by Petra Sunday, Arabiyat said "liberalisation and democracy are the right approach to Jordanian development and solving its problems."

He attributed corruption and financial mismanagement to "administrative and economic factors" and called for an "effective administrative and economic system capable of implementing the necessary reform."

In another development, the Committee for Occupied Territories Affairs of the Lower House has recommended the issuance of temporary passports to Gazan residents of Jordan since 1967, Palestinians expelled by the Israeli occupation authorities and those Palestinians who have been denied the right to return. The panel, which met Sunday, also called for granting temporary residence permits to Gaza families originally living in the occupied Strip and for permission for Gazan students to enrol at the Kingdom's universities. They should also be allowed the freedom of work and movement and be permitted to drive all kinds of vehicles, and be given the right to medical treatment at the Kingdom's hospitals and health centres, the committee recommended.

The full House meets today to discuss the committee's recommendations and other issues referred to it by the Upper House.

'Suspect' fire kills 87 in Bronx

NEW YORK (Agencies) — A suspicious fire swept through a jam-packed, illegal social club for Latin immigrants in New York City early Sunday, killing at least 87 people, fire officials said.

The fire, the worst in the continental United States in 13 years, was reported at the Happy Land Social Club in the borough of the Bronx at 3:41 a.m. (0841 GMT). It quickly spread through the two-storey brick building before being contained 2½ hours later.

Authorities and witnesses said the panic-stricken victims were trapped and only one man apparently managed to escape, severely burned.

Rescue workers said many victims were found on top of each other on a narrow wooden stairway leading from the second floor dance hall to the ground floor exit of the two-storey building.

Fire department spokesman John Sammon said most of the victims died of smoke inhalation and apparently had little hope of surviving because there were no windows.

Police declined comment on reports that petrol cans had been found at the scene or that there had been a fight at the club shortly before the blaze.

Police said most of the victims were Honduran immigrants attending "some sort of anniversary" party in the tiny seven-by-17-metre building.

The club's only doors — the two at the front of the tiny two-storey building — were quickly engulfed in flames and firemen who arrived at the scene within three minutes of the alarm arrived too late to do anything but quell the flames and pull out bodies.

Residents said the club was a popular spot for young Puerto Ricans, Dominicans and Hondurans.

Sixty-one of the people killed in the blaze were men, 26 were women, all of them dressed in their best clothes for what was the impoverished district's main social gathering place.

Most of the dead were between the ages of 19 and 35. Police said one man survived the blaze and was rushed to hospital with burns over 75 per cent of his body.

The fire started on the ground floor and its smoke and flames moved in seconds to the top floor where the dancers were gyrating to the loud disco-type music.

Police and fire officials refused comment on whether an "accelerant" — a fuel of some kind — had been found at the scene. But they called the fire "of suspicious origin" because of the speed with which it moved.

New York Mayor David Dinkins, among the first of dozens of top city officials to arrive at the scene, said the club was operating illegally and an eviction notice had been served at least three months ago.

Jordan, PLO study moves to coordinate information

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Sunday started their first-ever dialogue on cooperation and coordination in information in what was described as an effort to strengthen the 27-month-old uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Minister of Information Ibrahim Izzeddin and PLO Executive Committee member and head of the PLO Information Department Yasser Abed Rabbo headed their respective sides to the meetings, which came as a result of a Jordanian initiative.

Izzeddin, who had extended an official invitation to Abed Rabbo and the two-member delegation accompanying him, said that cooperation between the Jordanian Ministry of Information and the PLO Department of Information was particularly appropriate in light of the recent diplomatic moves launched by the PLO in its quest for a negotiated settlement to the Palestinian problem, Jordan Television said.

Abed Rabbo, speaking in an interview with Jordan Television, said bilateral cooperation in the field of information would bolster a unified Jordanian-Palestinian information policy. "Cooperation and consultations between the PLO and Jordan are strengthening on all levels," Abed Rabbo said.

The PLO official hailed the democratic experiment under way in Jordan and said that it was "proof of the invalidity of the

Israeli claim that it is the only oasis of democracy in the region while it is really a source of expansion, aggression and racism in the area."

Dr. Jamil Al Hilal, a member of the PLO delegation, described the Amman meetings as particularly significant "because it marked the first such meeting on a ministerial level."

"We are encouraged by the fact that we received an official invitation from the Jordanian minister of information," Hilal told the Jordan Times.

He said that the talks reflected the "joint goals and aspirations of the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples."

In his interview with Jordan Television, Abed Rabbo stressed that "we have the same point of view; we are trying to tap all our resources in order to invest them in communicating the message of the intifada and in order to unveil the crimes committed against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories."

Izzeddin and Abed Rabbo discussed media coverage of the intifada, the Israeli occupation and the immigration of Soviet Jews to Palestine during a working lunch Sunday.

"We are working to expose the dangers inherent in this immigration and we are trying to make the world realise and accept that such immigration threatens peace prospects in the region," Abed Rabbo told Jordan Television.

"Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine sows the seeds of another explosion in the region,"

Commenting on prospects for

Arab-Israeli peace, Abed Rabbo reiterated that the Palestinian peace initiative "encompasses all necessary elements for a just solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict."

"The Palestinian-Israeli dialogue would be an initial step on the path to an international peace conference," he said.

"The Palestinian-Israeli dialogue means a dialogue between the PLO and Israel as a preliminary step to an international peace conference," he stressed.

Abed Rabbo added that the dialogue "should have an open agenda and should be held under international auspices." He said that the Palestinian peace initiative had been presented and that it was now up to the political powers in Israel to accept it.

The Jordanian delegation to the meetings with the PLO side included the minister of information, Ministry of Information Secretary General Trad Al Fayez, director of Palestinian affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ahmad Al Qatanani, Director General of the Jordan News Agency Ali Safadi and Jordan Radio and Television Director General Radi Alkhas.

The PLO delegation, which includes Abed Rabbo, Dr. Hilal, Dr. Saada Khatib — another senior PLO information official — and Palestinian Ambassador to Jordan Tayed Abdul Rahim, is scheduled to hold talks Monday with Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Masa'deh, Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem and Minister of Culture Khaled Al Karaki.

Estonian Communists declare independence; deaths in Caucasus

MOSCOW (R) — The Kremlin's ethnic problems mounted Sunday when Estonian Communists followed in rebel Lithuania's footsteps and broke party links with Moscow, while violence between Armenians and Azeris took 11 more lives.

Nine people were killed, including a family of five burned alive in their home, when Armenian militants fired on three Azerbaidjani villages in Azerbaidjani's Kazakh district Saturday, the official TASS news agency reported.

In neighbouring Armenia, nationalists said two Armenians were killed Thursday in an artillery attack from Azeri territory. TASS said an Azerbaidjani train was also rocked by a bomb blast but no injuries were reported.

The violence in the two southern Soviet republics coincided with a renewal of Moscow's verbal attacks on rebel Lithuania.

Soviet General Valentin Varennikov charged that members of the independence movement Sajudis were creating an army to back up the republic's declaration of independence. He also accused Lithuanian leaders of preparing camps for political prisoners.

"We have information that some groups... are building warehouses and hiding weapons," he said.

Sajudis leaders denied the charge. "That is a straight lie. There are no armaments in

Lithuania and the policy of Sajudis is non-violent resistance," said Algimantas Cekuolis, a member of Sajudis' executive board.

Cites in the republic were reported quiet nearly 24 hours after a Soviet convoy of about 100 armoured vehicles roared through its capital, Vilnius, by night to an army camp. Moscow has said it will not use force but tensions are running high.

Sixty-three per cent of Estonian Communists attending a special party congress in Tallinn, the capital, voted to split with Moscow despite appeals by Andrei Girenko, a Communist Party central committee secretary, to postpone the decision.

"This means that the Communist Party of Estonia is an independent party, as in Lithuania," Henri Soova, an aide to Estonian ideology chief Mikko Tiitma, told Reuters by telephone from Tallinn.

The vote was bound to anger President Mikhail Gorbachev, who vehemently opposed the Lithuanian move to break with the Moscow party in December, predicting it would lead to a complete break between the Lithuanians and the Soviet state.

But the Estonians softened their decision by announcing a six-month transition period in which members of the new party will be registered, an editor at Estonian television said.

"We are being more careful

than the Lithuanians," said the editor, Uno Masakas, adding that the Independent Estonian Communist Party's first congress would be held in October.

Whether or not they are naturally more cautious than the Lithuanians, the Estonians must for demographic reasons watch their step while pushing for independence from Moscow.

Just 64.7 per cent of the republic's population is Estonian, while the proportion of ethnic Lithuanians in Lithuania, the most westerly of the Baltic republics, is 80 per cent.

The Estonian party's vote was solid but not overwhelming. Of the 690 delegates present, 432 voted in favour, three voted against and six abstained.

The rest, many of them ethnic Russians, refused to take part in the vote, Soova said. They were expected to remain members of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

The secessionist movement in the Baltic republics has been peaceful in contrast with the ethnic violence in the Transcaucasian republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia centred on the Armenian enclave of Nagorno-Karabach.

Hundreds of people have been killed there in years of ethnic fighting and TASS said a bomb was detonated under an Azerbaidjani passenger train bound for Baku Saturday and two carriages were derailed.

Beirut mediation falters; new all-out war seen as inevitable

By Peter Smerdon
Reuters

BEIRUT — Licking its wounds from weeks of savage battles, Lebanon's Christian enclave appears doomed to all-out war as mediation fails to reconcile its two leaders.

Shells and rockets poured into villages east of Jounieh Port Sunday in the worst violation of a shaky ceasefire since General Michel Aoun and Lebanese Forces (LF) militia leader Samir Geagea.

"This division on the ground and increasingly little real peace cannot continue," said one Western diplomatic source. "I fear Aoun and Geagea will fight again and soon."

Since March 2 when the ceasefire started, the guns have roared only intermittently. But mediators trying to find a political solution ensuring they stay muzzled have made little progress.

Security and diplomatic sources who say the tense impasse in the enclave cannot last, fear only more bloodletting might force Aoun or Geagea towards agreement.

"It is a sad reflection on us all," said another diplomatic source. "But it is even sadder for the Lebanese people who pay with their lives for their leaders' mistakes."

In a month of fighting, which started Jan. 31 when Aoun ordered the LF to disarm and disband, at least 82 people were killed and 2,660 were wounded.

Neither the deaths and maiming nor the destruction of whole areas of the Christian enclave succeeded in pushing either man to make real concessions, the sources and security analysts said.

Aoun was still determined to continue his drive to gain full control of the enclave.

Geagea, whose 10,000-strong militia holds two thirds of the enclave, saw little reason to agree to Aoun's demands that his men join forces with the general's 15,000 soldiers and cooperate politically.

Aoun maintains that a single command is necessary for his crusade to expel Syrian troops from Lebanon which he halted in September after six months of devastating but unsuccessful warfare.

Immense effort has gone into

NEWS ANALYSIS

inter-Christian mediation and its failure underscores the feeling that a return to war is becoming the only option. Western ambassadors backing a Christian mediation committee have shuttled between Lebanese leaders, to no avail.

Mediators arranged for some

main roads across the enclave to be cleared of barricades and mines.

Business in the enclave — traditionally Lebanon's most prosperous area — is largely paralysed by damage from street battles where tanks fought at point blank range. Diplomats estimate it will cost \$1 billion to put right.

In mainly-Muslim west Beirut, leaders wait to see the outcome of the Aoun-Geagea duel knowing that victory for either would pose problems for an Arab-backed plan to end Lebanon's 15-year-old civil war.

Aoun rejects the plan outright while Geagea says he approves of parts of it.

Lebanese parliamentarians — Muslim and Christian — who agreed to the plan last October, started meeting last Tuesday in their original building on the west Beirut side of the "green line" battle zone dividing the capital, their first such meeting there in 15 years.

2 killed in Beirut fighting

BEIRUT (R) — Two people were killed and 10 were wounded Sunday in the worst breach of a three-week ceasefire between warring Lebanese Christians vying for the leadership of their community.

Troops loyal to General Michel Aoun and Lebanese Forces (LF) militiamen fought for three hours with 155 mm Howitzers and multi-barrelled rocket-launchers across seven villages in the Keserwan area, some 20 kilometres northeast of Beirut.

"We could feel the earth shaking under our feet. At some stages the shells were slamming in at the rate of one each second," said Rima Hajj, a resident of east Beirut.

Security sources said two people were wounded, including two soldiers and two militiamen, during the shelling which forced thousands of Christians to miss Sunday church services and shelter in underground shelters.

Beirut's Ad Diyar newspaper, based in the Christian enclave, said: "East Beirut is facing a decisive week. There will either be an agreement or an explosion."

Lebanon's highest Christian religious authority, Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Butros Sfeir said in his Sunday sermon he was "ready to lead a popular uprising to restore peace and end the current situation."

Israel starts campaign to renew charter flights for Soviet Jews

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel has launched a diplomatic barrage in the United States and Hungary aimed at persuading Hungarian leaders to reverse a decision to stop charter flights bringing Soviet emigrants from Budapest to the Jewish state.

Senior officials headed for Washington and Budapest Sunday to press the issue, a Foreign Ministry official said. Israel's caretaker cabinet also debated the subject at its weekly session.

Hungary's move was the first blot on Israeli-Hungarian ties since Budapest renewed diplomatic links with Israel last September, becoming the first East bloc state to do so.

The Polish national airlines (LOT) was expected, meanwhile, to provide an alternative route for some stranded immigrants by adding a weekly flight between Warsaw and Tel Aviv, a LOT official said.

Israel's El Al airlines would also add a flight from Warsaw to Tel Aviv. The move by the two carriers would mean doubling the number of weekly flights from two to four, said the LOT official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Israeli officials claimed no knowledge of the Polish action, which was reported on the front pages of three major news dailies. The Foreign Ministry official said only that other ways or routes of immigration from the Soviet Union to Israel are being examined, but there is nothing concrete.

El Al spokesman Machman Kleinman, reached by telephone, denied special arrangements were made to increase flights. But he noted LOT and El Al have a standing agreement to add flights as demand warrants.

In announcing their decision, officials of the Malev Hungarian

Airlines said charter flights from Budapest were being halted because of attack threats from radicals who oppose Jewish immigration to Israel.

The Soviet carrier Aeroflot followed suit by suspending charter flights of Soviet Jews from Moscow to Budapest.

The pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine, based in Lebanon, threatened earlier this month to attack any airline transporting Soviet Jews to Israel.

Arab leaders also have criticised the wave of immigration, partly out of concern that newcomers would settle in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israeli officials said the cancellation of charter flights would not halt the twice weekly regular Budapest-Tel Aviv flights, although news reports suggested these were endangered, too.

The decision in effect chokes off a main waystation for Russian immigrants to Israel, since Moscow has no direct flights to Tel Aviv.

Israel has banned publication of Soviet immigration figures, but before censorship was imposed the government said 16,700 Russian Jews arrived in January and February, already higher than the 12,900 total for 1989.

The predictions are that some 750,000 Soviet Jews will arrive this decade following a relaxation in Soviet restrictions and increased willingness about growing expressions of anti-Semitism during the glasnost era.

Intense diplomatic contacts aimed at reversing Hungary's decision were underway through the weekend.

Deputy Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu chided Hungary on Israel Television Friday, saying "this is a classic example of

terrorist blackmail... if you surrender to it, you receive more blackmail."

Israel's highest-ranking official on East European affairs, Foreign Ministry Assistant Director-General Yosef Govrin, flew to Hungary Sunday to explain to the Hungarians the implications of their decision, the ministry official said.

"We can only hope the Hungarians will reconsider their decision," the official said, adding that Israel already has pressed the case with the Hungarian ambassador to Tel Aviv and with officials in Budapest.

Israel's ambassador to Washington, Moshe Arad, also talked with officials in the administration of U.S. President George Bush.

In addition, ministry Director-General Reuven Merhav left Sunday for Washington on a scheduled trip that was expected to deal with the Hungarian flight issue, the official said.

In a cabinet debate Sunday, ministers turned down a suggestion from hardline Economic Affairs Minister Yitzhak Mordechai to respond to threats against immigrants by continuing suspension of peace contacts with the Arabs, Israel Radio reported.

In Budapest, Hungary says it is willing to assist efforts to find a humane solution to the plight of Soviet Jews unable to emigrate to Israel after the Hungarian airline halted connecting flights.

A government statement issued Saturday night criticised the move by Malev, but did not say whether it would oblige the carrier to rescind it.

The statement also denounced Islamic Jihad's threats as a violation of international law and of Hungarian sovereignty.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Mubarak returns from Libyan summit

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak returned Sunday from a visit to Libya where he held talks with the leaders of Syria, Libya and Sudan in a strong show of Arab unity. Mubarak, Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Sudan's military leader Omar Hassan Al Bashir were warmly welcomed by Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi for celebrations marking the 25th anniversary of Britain's evacuation of its last Libyan base. The Middle East News Agency (MENA), reported Mubarak's return from his third visit to Libya in five months, said he talked for an hour with Assad at their first meeting since an Arab summit in Morocco in May last year. MENA said their discussions focused on bilateral issues and they agreed to maintain contacts in order to set a date for their next meeting.

Indonesia says Israeli settlements illegal

CAIRO (AP) — Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas Sunday said Israel's building of settlements in occupied Arab territories was illegal and condemned the immigration of Soviet Jews to the Jewish state. Alatas spoke to reporters after a meeting with Butros Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs. "The Indonesian situation is very clear. The Israeli settlements in the occupied territories are totally illegal and against international law. And concerning immigration (of Soviet Jews to Israel), we expressed our condemnation of the immigration which is against international law," Alatas said. The Indonesian minister lauded bilateral relations, saying the two countries agreed on most political issues and discussed improving economic ties. Alatas will meet President Hosni Mubarak and Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid in separate meetings Monday before he leaves. He arrived Saturday night.

Bahrain jails suspected spy

BAHRAIN (R) — A state security court has jailed a Bahraini for spying for Iran and convicted him and four others of belonging to the banned pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God), their lawyer said. Lawyer Abdul Shabeh Khalaf said the court Saturday jailed engineer Mohammed Jameel Al Jamri for 10 years after finding him guilty of spying for Iran. Four other Shi'ites received prison sentences for membership of Hizbollah. Khalaf said in a statement. He named them as Abdul Jalil Khalil Ibrahim, a 29-year-old engineer who was sentenced to seven years, civil servants Jameel Kadim Hassan, 22, and Ali Juma, 23, who each received three years terms and student Hussain Ibrahim Kassar, 20, who was sentenced to six months. Four other Bahrainis were found not guilty and were freed by the court, the statement said.

Blast damages Nicosia mosque

NICOSIA (R) — A detonator exploded outside a mosque in the Greek-Cypriot sector of divided Nicosia overnight, causing slight damage but no injuries, security sources said Sunday. They said the detonator was attached to a 60 mm mortar bomb but this had not exploded. The blast at the Omeriye Mosque, near the green line separating Greek and Turkish Cypriots, occurred on the eve of Greece's Independence Day which is celebrated by Greek Cypriots. Police said they were investigating.

Iranian town rocked by two tremors

NICOSIA (AP) — Two tremors rocked the town of Tabas in Iran's northeastern Khorasan province early Sunday, Tehran Radio reported. The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, said the stronger quake, measuring 5.6 on the Richter Scale, shook Tabas at 3:52 a.m. (00:32 GMT). The town of more than 11,000 people was rocked again at 7:41 a.m. (4:41 GMT), the radio said. It said reports of possible damage or casualties were not yet available. An earthquake measuring more than 5 on the Richter Scale can cause considerable damage.

Kuwait denies abuse claims by amnesty

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait Sunday rejected an Amnesty International report urging it to probe allegations of serious human rights abuses. "There is no truth in the Amnesty International claims," an official told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA). The London-based human rights group said on March 1 that at least 27 Muslim Shi'ites, a minority in Kuwait, had been arrested since September and 18 were still held without trial. It said there had been reports that some of the detainees had been tortured. "Kuwaiti authorities believe in equality between all people before the law... without any discrimination between people because of sex, origin, language or religion," the Kuwaiti official said. He said Kuwait abided by the law in dealing with a wave of bombings in the capital and attacks against its oil facilities in the mid-1980s and an assassination attempt against the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, in 1985.

Libya denies buying 1,000 tonnes of Semtex

LONDON (R) — Libya has denied it bought 1,000 tonnes of Semtex explosive from Czechoslovakia which President Vaclav Havel said could supply terrorists for 150 years.

Libya's ambassador to the United Nations was quoted by the London-based Arabic newspaper Asharq Al Awsat Sunday as dismissing Havel's allegation in response to a question.

Ali Al Tureiki told the newspaper, "definitely, this is not true. The Czechoslovak president is trying to please the West."

"He (Havel) might be a good playwright but his actions do not suggest seriousness," Tureiki said. "I don't think we can take him seriously."

Havel told reporters in London Thursday that the former Communist authorities had sold the explosive to Libya but his country had since stopped exporting Semtex, ideal for bombers because it cannot be detected by sniffer dogs or X-ray machines. "The previous regime exported

1,000 tonnes to Libya. Two hundred grammes is enough to blow up an aircraft so world terrorism has supplies of Semtex to last 150 years," Havel said.

Tureiki accused the United States and other Western states of waging a campaign against Arabs.

He denied U.S. and West German charges that the Rabta plant south of Tripoli, which caught fire two weeks ago, was for chemical weapons.

"I believe that the issue is not Libya or the factory. The issue is that there is a decision by the United States of America and the West to prevent any progress or development in the Arab World..."

"Why does not the West speak up or direct its satellites to search for Israeli nuclear weapons?"

"Everyone knows for certain that Israel has hundreds of nuclear bombs and that it is the only country in the area that refuses to sign any international agreement."

Arabs must be more aware of AIDS risk — WHO aide

ABU DHABI (R) — Arab countries must do more to educate people, especially the young, about the risks of getting AIDS, a World Health Organisation (WHO) official said.

"To avoid the spread of the disease, Arab states must give more attention to awareness campaigns and public debate about the disease," Hussein Gezalri, WHO Mediterranean region director, said in an interview this week.

Asked during a visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) whether this should include schools, he said: Of course, ev-

erybody should know there is a disease called AIDS and how it is communicated."

Most Arab countries have been reluctant to openly discuss or report cases of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), which is transmitted through sexual intercourse, especially between homosexuals, and via infected blood.

Some Arab officials say their conservative societies and Islamic principles can protect them from AIDS.

"In our region, (reported) AIDS cases now exceed 500," said Gezalri, whose area covers

the Arab World, Iran, Pakistan, Cyprus, and Afghanistan.

"But... many people have the virus but have not developed the disease. This means we certainly have thousands of cases," he said.

He said Arab states should coordinate anti-AIDS campaigns and that rich Gulf states could help the poorer ones.

The UAE, which has been more open than most Arab countries about AIDS, is preparing tighter measures against the disease.

"We have decided to intensify our efforts to combat this deadly

disease after an increase in AIDS cases in some African and Asian states," Health Ministry Undersecretary Abdul Rahim Jafar said in another interview this week.

The UAE has reported 25 AIDS deaths through infected blood transfusions.

About one million of its 1.6 million population have been tested and of these almost 1,000 foreigners tested positive and were deported.

Jafar said the UAE would begin to test newborn babies, pregnant women, prisoners, and any expatriate who wanted to renew a work permit.

Stench of burning grain lingers in Massawa

MASSAWA, Ethiopia (R) — A faint stench of burning grain and rotting corpses still lingers at St. Giorgis Church in the rebel-held port of Massawa.

"Jesus Christ bless and forgive us," the worshippers sing, kneeling amid rubble in their war-ravaged church three weeks after rebels captured this city on the sweltering Red Sea coast.

Women swathed in white shawls quietly leave the morning mass and stroll past sandal-shod fighters of the rebel Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), which wants an independent state in Eritrea province.

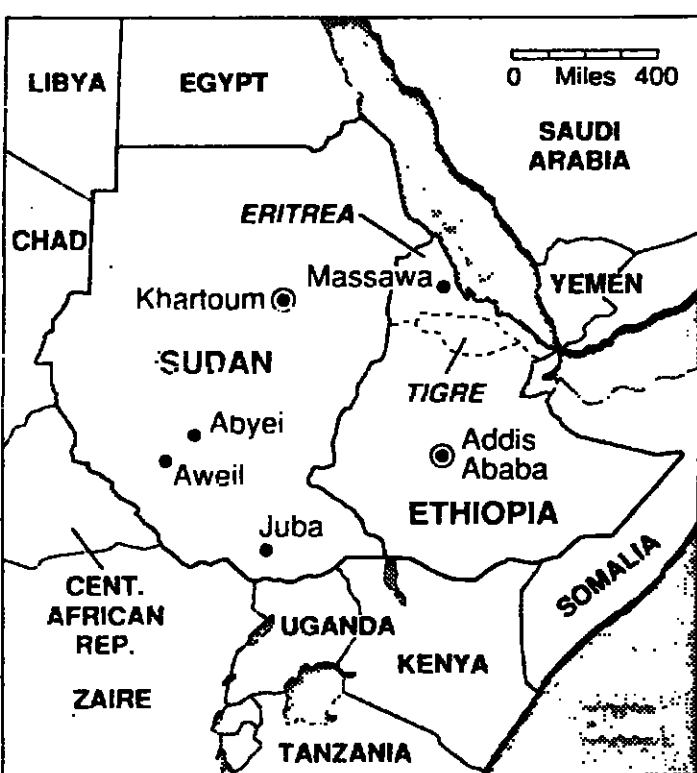
The guns are silent, air raids have stopped and hundreds of tanks have rumbled away from the charred buildings of this ancient city built on two islands linked to the mainland by a causeway.

Townpeople who fled during the battle for Massawa, Eritrea's main port, in mid-February are returning as bombed shops reopen and children laugh and play on wrecked tanks in the narrow, winding streets.

But across the bay, a massive stock of food aid sent by foreign donors to relieve famine in northern Ethiopia still smokes and smoulders.

"I heard the food was burning, that's why I came here, to try to save some grain from the fire," says Maybotot Omer, clad in a stained cloak and turban and shaking a sieve of charred wheat.

Behind him, a sweating man digs into a mountain of charred burlap bags, each stamped "gift



of the European Community." Residents say Soviet-built MiG jets of the Ethiopian Air Force bombed Massawa for 10 days after the EPLF gained control on Feb. 16, destroying most of the food stocks in the port.

The grain had been brought in by relief agencies to feed some of the 4.5 million victims of drought and civil war in Ethiopia who face food shortages this year.

In the port, local people point to a 100-metre line of rotting wheat on the sea front where government soldiers stacked sacks of grain like sandbags to make fortifications.

The U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) says more than 50,000 tonnes of grain, enough to feed more than three million peo-

ple for a month, were stored in Massawa. The EPLF says it has salvaged 5,000 to 10,000 tonnes of good wheat, some of which has been distributed to local people.

Many families have bags of grain stacked on the verandas of their houses, in backyards and even in bedrooms.

But a steady stream of people still carry soy bags of grain out of the port on their shoulders, on donkey carts and strapped to the backs of camels.

At the depot, a man drags a 50-kilogramme bag away from a new outburst of flames as visiting aid worker Chong Eu stumbles on a corpse half buried in the wheat.

Later, the rebels showed Eu a

stack of green, wooden boxes containing a jumbled mass of human bones, mostly legs and skulls. Bulky army boots still surround some of the skeleton feet.

"I can't believe it. I want to vomit," says Eu, a Korean-American who works for the U.S.-based aid group Grassroots International.

The rebels, who have been fighting nearly three decades for independence of Eritrea, say the boxes probably hold the remains of dissident Ethiopian soldiers and political prisoners.

Last year, the London-based human rights group Amnesty International accused Ethiopia of imprisoning thousands of political prisoners, torturing many of them and executing civilians after military trials.

Across the bay, in a tiny house in the main island's old Arab quarter, 24-year-old Gabreel Abraham peers out of his front door at a twisted, rusting United Nations truck while his grandmother roasts coffee on a charcoal stove.

Next week he will return to Massawa's bombed cement factory to help repair his old workplace. His brother is volunteering to clean up the neighbourhood.

"We're getting back to normal, but there is a lot of damage, a lot of work," he says with a smile.

Pope seeks aid for Eritrea

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope John Paul II Sunday appealed to authorities in the Ethiopian province of Eritrea to allow the entry of relief supplies for those suffering from warfare and famine.

In his noon Angelus remarks from his balcony overlooking St. Peter's Square, the Pope noted that Eritrea has long been tormented by war, hunger and disease.

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PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programmes
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 World News
19:15 Local programme
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Local programmes
23:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 French film
19:00 News in French
19:15 Weekly Sport magazine
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:30 Empty Nest
21:10 Tustala
22:00 News in English
22:30 Midnight Caller

PRAYER TIMES

04:11 Fajr
05:28 Sunrise
11:41 Dhuhur
15:11 'Asr
17:54 Maghrib
19:12 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifeth Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
St. Salla Church Tel. 661757
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623666
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623666
Anglican Church Tel. 625383
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 659332

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
A rise in temperature will occur and winds will be northerly to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman 6 / 18
Aqaba 13 / 26
Deserts 4 / 21
Jordan Valley 11 / 25

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 16, Aqaba 24. Humidity readings: Amman 43 per cent. Aqaba 22 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Abdul Rahman Jabr 775050
Dr. Isam Al Hawandeh 624830
Dr. Doud Al Sambouri 689535
Dr. Ahmed Al Daqn 676473
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asmaa pharmacy 637053
Nairookh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yaoush pharmacy 644945
Shameisani pharmacy 637660
IRBID:
Dr. Mazen Abu Bakr (—)
Al Sharaf pharmacy 985238

ZARQA:
Dr. Jihad Musleh (—)
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue Police 192, 601111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 846590
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 625000
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 781111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 661101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 771111
Jordan Television 774111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 06-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Husseini Medical Centre 818131/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Al-Zuhri Maternity, J. Amn. 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845645
Al-Zuhri Hospital 672279
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Abdi, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajiroun 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775112/6
Army, Marfa 891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital 682240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)247100

AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

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ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
09:00 Damascus (RJ)
09:00 Sanaa (RJ)
09:00 Baghdad (RJ)
09:45 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:55 Istanbul (RJ)
10:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:00 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
10:15 Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
10:15 Larnaca (RJ)
10:45 Cairo



KING MEETS FLEURY: His Majesty King Hussein Sunday receives at the Royal Court visiting French Air Force Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Jean Fleury in a meeting

attended by the Royal Jordanian Air Force commander and French Ambassador to Jordan Denis Bouchard (Petra photo)

Government explains Housing Bank status, JEPSCO deposits

AMMAN (J.T.) — Amendments to the Housing Bank law which were introduced by the government in 1975 and 1977 can be changed upon the request of Parliament if so desired because the legislature had not endorsed them, according to Minister of Finance Basil Jaraneh.

He said that the bank's law came into being in 1974 through a law which was approved by both Houses of Parliament but successive amendments to it were not approved.

The Housing Bank is exempted from paying any taxes, duty or any other charges normally required from other banks in Jordan and paid to the treasury or municipalities, according to the minister.

In a written statement, which was to be delivered to Parliament Saturday and deferred along with other government ministers' statements until Monday.

Jardaneh said that the Housing Bank was in fact treated as a government department in terms of its fixed or removable assets and in terms of means of ensuring settlement of loans granted to various individuals or organisations and the process involving sponsorship of loans.

The statement was in reply to a query by Deputy Ahmad Al Kofahi, who demanded an explanation from the government about the privileges granted to the Housing Bank.

"Under the provisions of the law, the Housing Bank has the right to claim its dues from a second party in a manner similar to that adopted in the process of arranging for the settlement of loans due to the treasury," the minister pointed out.

"Although the Housing Bank is a company, it must be understood that it is different from other commercial banks operating in the Kingdom as it is not registered as a company under the companies law," Jardaneh added.

Deposits with JEPSCO

Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al Taher provided a reply to a query by Deputy Abdul Hafiz Alawi on deposits entrusted with the Jordan Electric Power Company (JEPSCO) by subscribers as guarantee before power is supplied.

The minister noted that payments in advance required by the company were needed to ensure that the subscribers will pay their dues and charges on power consumption.

"Normally reading of meters takes place after power is consumed, and could be settled one month later, which means a subscriber has two months to consume power before paying," Taher said.

"The company, in the mean-

time, has to pay for expenses and salaries and must have sufficient liquidity all the time," the minister added.

He said that the company does not deposit funds in any bank, and therefore does not receive any interest. It keeps the funds to pay for its expenses, he said.

The minister said that the JEPSCO had a sum of JD 7,687,137 in total funds on Dec. 31, 1989 paid by the subscribers in advance, but by the same date subscribers were indebted to the company by a total of JD 9,730,899.

"It should be noted that JEPSCO is controlled by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources under a bilateral agreement which gives the ministry the right to fix power consumption charges among other matters," he said.

He said that the ministry continually follows up on JEPSCO's progress and performance and helps solve problems that might arise between the company on the one hand and the subscribers on the other.

The Lower House of Parliament was due to convene Saturday but a lack of quorum prompted the delay of the session until Monday.

The prime minister, several Cabinet members and many deputies were Saturday on a tour of the southern regions and were available for Saturday's session.

Badran, ministers continue mission in southern region

Interest-free loans for livestock

SHOBAK (Petra) — The government has decided to grant stock-breeders in the southern regions of Jordan interest-free loans through the Agricultural Credit Corporation to help them promote their farming and increase the national livestock wealth, Prime Minister Mudar Badran announced Sunday.

The government will guarantee these loans and will pay interest on them, Badran said at a public meeting here on the second day of his three-day tour of the southern regions.

"The government has decided to reschedule loans due from local village and municipal councils and has doubled the quantity of animal feed supplied to the governorates of Karak, Tafleh and Maan which have been badly affected by the current drought," Badran said.

He said that a special government committee had been set up involving the Ministry of Finance and the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) to supervise the distribution of animal feed through specialised centres to be set up in the three governorates.

At the meeting, attended by the ministers of health, social development, public works, transport, education, water and irrigation, justice, agriculture, culture and municipal and rural affairs and the environment, representatives of the local inhabitants presented demands for improvement of health, agricultural and educational services as well as the supply of water and electricity.

At the meeting, which was also attended by Lower House Speaker Suleiman Arar and deputies from the southern regions, the prime minister said that the government was aware that the southern areas were hit hard by the drought and that was a big cause of concern. "His Majesty King Hussein has instructed the government to make the tour with the purpose of identifying problems and working out solutions," Badran said.



Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Cabinet members meet with residents in the southern region at a meeting held in Maan Sunday (Petra photo)

Badran also drew attention to the financial crisis Jordan is facing at the moment and said that despite the meagre resources available to the government, everything will be done to meet the basic needs of the people.

Badran said that major companies had come to the aid of the government and noted that the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company had donated JD 1 million and the Arab Potash Company made a donation of JD 50,000 while the government had allocated \$1 million which had been originally earmarked for the development of high lands to help the southern governorates.

These funds will be placed at the disposal of the local governments to help initiate projects that would reduce unemployment and help promote agriculture, he said.

The prime minister said the funds could finance the planting of trees, building of canals, maintaining water springs and constructing stone fences. "In addition, plans have been laid for building earth dams and constructing agricultural roads," he

said. After the visit to Shobak, Badran and the accompanying ministers and deputies went to Wadi Musa, near the Nabatean city of Petra where he delivered a speech before a gathering appealing to Arab countries to come to the aid of Jordan.

The prime minister announced the formation of a special government committee with extensive powers to deal with urgent problems as they arise.

"Sufficient funds will be made available to the committee from the donations made by major companies," he said. "Priority in services and projects will be given to those schemes that can absorb the largest possible number of unemployed citizens," Badran added.

He also announced that local councils would be exempted from paying 25 per cent of the total amount of interest due on loans acquired during 1990, totalling JD 1 million.

Part of the revenues from tourists visiting the Nabatean city of Petra will be allocated for projects in Wadi Musa and \$350,000

will be allocated for improving conditions for the local population, Badran announced. According to the prime minister, concerned ministers will be touring the southern provinces again soon to conduct a detailed assessment of needs and the funds to be spent there.

Visit to Maan

Later Sunday, Badran visited Maan and the area's residents. Addressing the meeting, Badran said that the Arab countries of the Gulf, particularly Saudi Arabia, have provided genuine support for Jordan to help it overcome its difficult economic situation.

Badran noted that the southern regions of Jordan were suffering from poor rain and living a real crisis. He said the ministers had been working hard throughout the last several days to find solutions to the problems facing the south.

Badran charged the governor of Maan with forming a central committee, comprising the governor himself, department direc-

tors, deputies and other people selected by the governorate's deputies, to carry out a number of projects designed to provide water and construct agricultural and village roads.

The prime minister stressed that the Ministry of Water and Irrigation would install water pumps on the water-wells, available in the region, and would allow people to use them.

The ministry will also provide the governorate with water tankers to provide water to the remote villages, Badran said.

To deal with the animal feed problem, Badran pledged the government's support for a mobile fodder centre, which will distribute fodder to the various parts of the governorate. On the possibility of installing a modern electronic telephone switchboard, Badran said the government would try to obtain a loan to set up such a facility in Maan at the beginning of 1991. The prime minister also promised to provide a central refrigeration unit for keeping frozen meat and to grant livestock breeders interest-free loans to buy fodder.

Austerity not allowed to affect education

IRBID (Petra) — The government provides the necessary assistance to the Ministry of Education despite the economic difficulties and the government's cancelling of other projects in the country, Ministry of Education Secretary-General Munther Al-Masri said here Sunday.

Addressing a meeting of teachers and educationalists, Masri said the Ministry of Education plans to set up 400 schools in Jordan in the next four years and that 140 schools are already under construction.

He said the ministry was supporting the idea of creating a teachers' union aimed at promoting the teaching profession and to

help teachers enjoy their rights in full.

Referring to textbooks, Masri said an increase in the price of school textbooks was inevitable due to the extra cost the ministry was paying.

"The ministry is now paying JD 7 million every year for publishing school books, almost two and a half times the cost a few years ago," Masri said.

Before the meeting, Masri opened three schools at Kufr Youtba, Mazar and Huwara which altogether cost nearly JD 1 million. He also attended a ceremony at a local school in Irbid marking the Karameh Battle anniversary.

Environment strategy in the making

AMMAN (J.T.) — A national environment strategy that was originally scheduled to be completed by the end of 1990 will take longer because of the parliamentary elections held in November 1989, according to the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment.

The announcement was made by the Director of the ministry's environment department, Sufian Al Tal, at a meeting with committees in charge of preparing for the strategy that is being formulated in cooperation with and help from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCNNR).

Ministry prepares pilgrimage facilities

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has rented 14,000 lodgings for Muslims performing this year's holy pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina, according to an announcement by Sheikh Hamad Al Zaqan the ministry's director of pilgrimage affairs.

Zaqan said that all the houses are located one to three kilometres away from the holy shrines where the pilgrimage rites are performed.

Zaqan said that all facilities were available at the rented houses.

The homes have been rented through the national pilgrimage corporation set up by the ministry to organise transportation and lodging of pilgrims.

Zaqan recently visited Saudi

Arabia and he inspected the rented houses and met with Saudi officials in charge of pilgrimage affairs.

The ministry last month announced that each pilgrim will have to pay JD 110 for this year's pilgrimage down from JD 130 last year and the fee covers lodging and transportation by land to and from the holy places in Mecca and Medina.

Pilgrims start converging on the holy places in the second half of June for the pilgrimage, which culminates with the final rites in Mecca around July 2, 1990.

"Eid Al Adha, the feast of sacrifice which comes at the end of the pilgrimage, normally falls 70 days after the 'Eid Al Fitr ending the Holy Month of Ramadan, which is due to start on Wednesday."

Jordan to gain from Italian energy expertise

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources and the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) are jointly cooperating with Italy in matters related to architecture with the purpose of benefiting from Italian expertise in this field, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al Taher announced Sunday.

Addressing the opening session of a two-day seminar on bi-climatic architecture organised by the three parties, Taher said his ministry and the RSS were giving due attention to the question of energy consumption inside buildings with a view to reducing the cost and waste of heating, refrigerating and lighting.

"Designing buildings is no less important than building materials used in construction operations

and for this reason the ministry and the RSS were counting on cooperation with the Italian Soft Energy System to achieve the aspired goal, the minister said.

"The ministry will soon issue a handbook on architecture in Jordan which will benefit all architects and engineers in matters pertaining to ways of saving energy," he said.

Addressing the opening session also was RSS President Hani Mulki, who outlined the society's projects which, he said, among other things aim at reducing Jordan's energy consumption.

"Through the RSS building code and other projects the RSS was aiming at achieving reduction in the consumption of heating and refrigerating in homes and various industries," Mulki said.

Tourism drive produces results

AMMAN (J.T.) — A group of 1,000 European tourists will begin arriving to Jordan Monday for visits to archaeological and tourist sites, according to an announcement by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities.

The group which will be arriving on board four ships that will dock at Aqaba harbour is scheduled to tour the Nabatean city of Petra, and Wadi Rum in addition to Aqaba, the main tourist centre in the south.

The ministry's announcement said Sunday that a full entertainment programme had been prepared for the visitors on board their ships or in the main squares in Aqaba city between March 25 and 30.

Arrangements for the visit were worked out by the ministry in cooperation with the private sector's tourist offices both of which recently agreed on intensifying efforts to market Jordanian tourism abroad and to encourage maritime transportation of tourists to Jordan.

Aqaba has been attracting European visitors during the winter and spring seasons and according to Ministry of Tourism officials at least 10,000 Finns and 2,800 West Germans would have visited the winter resort among others during 1990.

According to tourism minister Abdul Karim Al Kabari nearly 600,000 visitors from Arab and foreign countries came to Jordan in 1989, registering an increase of 4.8 per cent over the number of visitors in the previous year.

The minister noted that on 71.5 per cent came to Jordan from Arab countries.

Recently the Ministry of Tourism made arrangements for a plan to create a private sector tourist agency funded by matching contributions from private investors, the government, the national airline Royal Jordanian and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

American research students find room for marketing Jordan

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Barbara Ross and Steven Gray, from Cornell University in the United States, have just concluded a 10-day trip to Jordan that took them to Petra, Aqaba, Wadi Rum, Jerash and the Dead Sea.

"The sites we have seen are much more impressive than the literature available in the United States led us to believe," said Ross. "For example, in America, Petra is marketed as a one-day tour, but there are so many things to do and see in Petra that it would take much more than one day; therefore it should be marketed as more," Ross added.

According to Gray, Jordan's heritage and its culture "was fascinating and the hospitality we received made our stay very special."

Ross, 30, and Gray, 23, had won a competition at Cornell University for presenting research papers on Jordan's tourism and hotels.

Ross focused in her paper on Jordan's need to concentrate on small markets in the United States and on markets which are not "price sensitive" rather than targeting larger markets. "There are markets available in the United States, small but willing to pay more to come to Jordan. Those are the areas that need to be concentrated on," she said, referring to certain groups that would be will-

ing to explore the country more and therefore spend more money.

On the other hand, Gray focused on marketing Jordan in Europe. One of his recommendations was to develop the country's rail system, and link it to the European system to make travel cheaper and easier.

According to Gray's research, about 50 per cent of the world's tourism is concentrated in Europe. Gray also pointed out that Jordan should explore the new markets in Eastern Europe. "It would be to Jordan's advantage because a tourism market does not exist at the moment."

Ross' and Gray's papers were part of a school competition where 25 students participated.

According to Fakhri Twal, manager of Jordan Hotel Association, the project resulted from a seminar that was held at the beginning of the school year, and was attended by William Kaven from Cornell University. Kaven's visit was shortly followed by Twal's to Cornell to discuss Jordan's problems in marketing and hotels. As a result, Kaven gave a class assignment on how to develop tourism marketing for Jordan. It was agreed that the Jordan Hotel Association and Royal Jordanian would fly the winners to Jordan.

According to Ross, the research, which took half a school year to accomplish, in-

volved visiting travel agents, the Embassy of Jordan in Washington D.C. and libraries. She says that they also coordinated with Twal and the Ministry of Tourism.

"We came across many difficulties, especially when we were dealing with travel agents," Gray said.

He explained that travel agents in America did not have much information about Jordan. "When we would ask about Jordan, they would recommend Egypt instead."

"But now that we have been in Jordan for ten days it is a shame that people in the United States do not know much about it," Gray said.

This is the first time Gray and Ross have travelled to the Middle East.

During their visit, Ross and Gray were received by Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein for an "exchange of ideas." They discussed with the Queen Petra, its potential and facilities and how to balance the two, how to develop hotel tourism while still preserving nature and the environment, in addition to talking about Wadi Rum.

The two students leave for the United States Monday, where they will follow up on their research. According to Ross, their last papers will be presented to the hotel association.

"But we hope to do further research for ourselves and hopefully publish it in the United States," said both of them.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

THE NATIONAL WEEK FOR SUPPORTING THE INTIFADA

- ★ Exhibition entitled "The Palestinian Uprising in Photos", displaying photos, cartoons, books and posters depicting the Palestinian uprising, at the University of Jordan.
- ★ Exhibition of Jordanian-Palestinian heritage which includes costumes, paintings, photos and cassettes of national songs, at Al Abbassi Club, Zarqa.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of plastic artists Arij Al Hamad and Ibrahim Al Nabahneh at the Housing Bank Complex.
- ★ Art exhibition by seven Iraqi artists at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation (10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
- ★ Art exhibition entitled "Spanish contemporary engravings" at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Ahmad Nawash at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ The spring exhibition of Bani Hamida women's weaving project at the Bani Hamida House - Jabal Amman, Rainbow Street.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Issam Taatawi at Alla Art Gallery.

FILMS

- ★ Soviet documentaries entitled "Strange Theatre", "The Ballet Festival" and "The House" at the Soviet Cultural Centre - 5:30 p.m.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Bangladesh, Greece

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday sent a cable to Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad congratulating him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian people on Bangladesh's national day anniversary. The King wished the president continued good health and happiness and the Bangladesh people further progress and prosperity. King Hussein also sent a congratulatory cable to Greek President Christos Sartzetis, congratulating him on his country's independence day anniversary.

Jordan, Syria discuss tourism

DAMASCUS (Petra) — Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Abdul Karim Al Kabari Sunday met with his Syrian counterpart Adnan Qouli and discussed with him scopes of bilateral cooperation and means of encouraging tourist investments in both countries. Kabari arrived in Damascus Sunday at the head of a Jordanian delegation on a three-day visit to Syria. In an arrival statement, Kabari said he would discuss with Qouli issues pertaining to the simplification of border and customs procedures, and formulating a tourism marketing policy. He also said that he would convey to Syrian Prime Minister Mahmoud Al Zu'bi a verbal message from Prime Minister Mudar Badran dealing with bilateral relations and the need to enhance the spirit of understanding that dominated the Joint Higher Jordanian-Syrian Committee meetings, held in Amman at the end of January.

JPMC to use KD 8 million loan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Sunday announced its approval of relending a loan obtained by the government from the Arab Fund For Economic and Social Development to the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC). The eight-million Kuwaiti dinar loan will contribute to financing production processes in the company's projects.

Two to be hanged today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two convicts were scheduled to be hanged Monday morning at Swaqa prison for killing two Jordanians, identified as a four-year-old child, Samer Ahmad Deeb, and Mohammad Ali Ibrahim Omoush. One of the convicts, Itaf Deeb, the second wife of Ahmad Deeb, was convicted of throwing her stepson, Samer, into a water well in a forest, thus killing him. The second convict, Mohammad Hamdan Abu Al Foul, was found guilty of killing Mohammad Ali Ibrahim Al Omoush for a difference over chairmanship of Sarrou village council in Zarqa governorate.

Jordan Times

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Middle ground in Soviet impasse

THERE IS a growing fear that both Moscow and the breakaway government of Lithuania are putting themselves in strait jackets instead of making joint efforts to find an honourable way out of their existing impasse. With Soviet tanks rolling into Lithuania and Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis refusing Moscow's ultimatum to reverse his republic's unilateral declaration of independence, the stage is set for a confrontation that might bring irreparable harm to both sides. The stakes in this standoff are also getting higher in view of calls on Moscow to refrain from resorting to military means to settle the conflict.

One can be sure that Mikhail Gorbachev is not so reckless as to deploy forceful means against Lithuania, not so much in deference to the West but rather out of deep commitment to the new Soviet policies of glasnost and perestroika which have become the trademark of contemporary Soviet policy. There is every reason to believe that the demonstration of force by the Soviet Union is intended to contain the Lithuanian declaration of independence than to uproot it by sheer might. The goodwill that Gorbachev's recent policies have generated worldwide are simply too important to sacrifice over a controllable situation as the one posed by Lithuania. What Moscow is in effect saying to Lithuania now is to cool it and stick religiously to constitutional methods before it gets carried away with its decision to secede from the Soviet Union. It is relatively easy to sympathise with Moscow's legitimate concern that to let Lithuania break away from the Union would only invite other Soviet republics to do the same, thus creating chaos and instability across the whole country. Simultaneously, there is also every reason to believe that Moscow knows only too well that the Lithuanian decision to leave the Soviet Union enjoys large scale grassroots support that cannot be frustrated for all times even by brute force.

The national answer to this impasse would lie in inviting the sides to deescalate their confrontation by going to the negotiating table. Given the realities of the Lithuanian situation it is not beyond the scope of common sense to expect the two antagonists to find a happy middle course to follow with a view to first defusing the tension between them and then to search for common grounds on which they can agree. Meanwhile, all countries, whether friends or foes of either party, will do better to refrain from escalating the tension there by refraining from issuing threats or uttering innuendos. Instead of fanning the flame of ill-feeling between Moscow and Lithuania, it would be much more constructive to encourage the two sides to settle their dispute in an amicable manner and on legal grounds in conformity with not only Soviet domestic law but also with international law and norms.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Sunday interpreted the U.S. Senate's decision to declare Jerusalem as the capital of Israel two days ago as part of a show of support for Shimon Peres's endeavours to form a new government in Israel. But the paper said that this decision also means a departure from a standing American policy which gave open and supposedly unequivocal backing for U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 which considered Jerusalem as part of Arab territory occupied since 1967. The United States should not go along with Israel's decision concerning its annexation of the holy city, because by doing so it is supporting a violation of international law, the paper noted. It said that the U.S. Senate which issued a resolution in support of Israel's annexation can never help promote the process of peace as the Senate member had claimed.

Al Dastour daily commented on Prime Minister Mudar Badran's tour of the southern regions of Jordan where he is discussing issues of concern to the local population prior to taking government measures to improve conditions. Badran and his accompanying Cabinet members made it a point in their initial meetings Saturday to point out the government's deep concern in promoting health and social services to the people of the south, stressing the need for closer cooperation with the local authorities for their achievement, the paper noted. It said that country is facing mounting challenges and difficulties which can only be overcome through diligence and cohesion. It said that the current onslaught represented in the influx of Jews into Palestine represented a major setback for the whole Arab Nation, and one that requires further solidarity among the Arabs and within the Kingdom itself. The paper echoed the prime minister's call for stronger national unity which, it said, can shatter all conspiracies and evil designs concocted by the enemies of the Arab World.

Due to a translation error, the Jordan Times in its Thursday issue of March 23, misquoted Al Ra'i columnist Tareq Masarweh as saying "Britain was proved irresponsible and irrational in its behaviour by its friends and allies in the European Community which have refused to join in imposing sanctions on Iraq, as London had demanded." In fact, what the writer said that in his column which was translated and published in the Jordan Press Editorials column was: "...here Britain's partners in the European Council and the European Community discover Britain's free hypocrisy. We never heard that the British sensitive conscience was greatly concerned about the killing of hundreds of Palestinian children for which the British ambassador in Tel Aviv was recalled home..." There was no reference in Masarweh's article to any British demands from the European Community to impose sanctions on Iraq. The Jordan Times regrets the error.

Weekly Political Pulse

Camp David broker champions international conference

During his visit last week former U.S. President Jimmy Carter talked to newspaper editors and columnists. Waleed Sadi reads into Mr. Carter's thoughts on Middle East peace:

I HAD a rare opportunity to exchange views with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter last week during his visit to Amman. The visit with him took place in the company of other Jordanian journalists who were invited to share their thoughts with the former president on current affairs in the Middle East. The one hour encounter with Mr. Carter turned out to be outstanding in more than one way and highlighted by many revelations, at least for me. I hasten to record some of them for the benefit of all those concerned about the peace process in the Middle East.

For a starter, President Carter now champions the international conference idea as distinguished from the Camp David formula to pursue peace in the Middle East. Jimmy

Carter, however, maintains that the international conference format and the Camp David formula are not mutually exclusive but rather complementary to one another. And to prove that he had never entertained ill-feelings about the international conference idea, the former president assured his audience that the first thing that was on his mind when he assumed U.S. presidency in 1977 was to expedite the convening of the conference in the wake of the ill-fated first ever conference on the Middle East that was convened in Geneva in 1974 and which lasted for just one day. While working earnestly and diligently to organise another Geneva meeting on the heels of the defunct 1974 one, Mr. Carter went on to add that the preparatory steps were suddenly overtaken and preempted by

then-Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's surprise visit to Jerusalem in 1978. As Mr. Carter put it, it was Sadat's abrupt visit to Jerusalem and what ensued from it that lay the ground work for convening the Camp David negotiations and, a priori, the diversion from the international conference idea. Specifically speaking Mr. Carter advised the Camp David formula was devised and improvised to rescue the bogged down and unsuccessful initial Egyptian-Israeli negotiations that ensued from the Sadat's surprise visit to Jerusalem. To be sure, Mr. Carter pointed out all the efforts then and prior to Sadat's trip to Jerusalem were not getting anywhere anyway thus giving additional impetus for an alternative peace process.

The second major revelation that was made by President Carter during the private discussion that he had conducted on that afternoon was his firm conviction that the Camp

David accord provided the Palestinian side with more assured political rights and windows of opportunities to achieve their national yearnings than anything that is now on the negotiating table and acceptable to the Arab side. When asked if he considers the Camp David accord as yet another missed opportunity for the Palestinians to realise their national aspirations, President Carter's reply was in the affirmative. Mr. Carter hastened to remind his audience that the 1983 Ronald Reagan's initiative on the Middle East, which many Arab governments rushed to embrace, was not different from the Camp David accord, and in some ways even less. As Mr. Carter was making these points he often called on all sceptics to read all over the Camp David accords thus insinuating that few Arabs had in fact examined the contents of that peace agreement with the necessary diligence and care that it deserves. To drive home even more his thesis about the viability of the Camp

David agreement, Mr. Carter said that he sees nothing in the U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's proposal for Palestinian-Israeli talks that was not already there in the Camp David agreement. And while seeing no operational alternative to holding an international peace conference at the moment, he also views Palestinian-Israeli talks as sine qua non to holding such a conference, since the Palestinian dimension of the broader Arab-Israeli conflict constitutes the crux and the heart of the matter.

Yet the international conference that Carter has in mind is strikingly different from anything that I had taken for granted for a long time. Mr. Carter views such an international forum as an opportunity not necessarily to achieve a package deal peace agreement between Israel and the Arab parties but rather as a forum to conduct bilateral peace negotiations between Israel and each and every Arab party

under the auspices of the United Nations without necessarily maintaining an organic linkage between such bilateral negotiations. The distinct impression that I had when hearing the elaboration of Mr. Carter on the international conference is that any Arab party may emerge out of it with a separate peace treaty with Israel without making such a peace agreement contingent on the successful completion of the other Israeli negotiations with the other Arab parties.

The former president concluded his remarks to us on an optimistic note by reiterating his strongly-held view that all the peoples of the Middle East are strongly in favour of peace and that the governments in the region are what is keeping this peace away from their peoples. That is why, Mr. Carter emphasised, attempts must be made to bypass and transcend governments to strike peace in the Middle East. This, I understood him to say, is one of the priorities that he pursues.



Youth leader gets star treatment in Hungary's election

By Paul Holmes
Reuters

BUDAPEST — Politicians tend not to come in for adulation in Hungary but Viktor Orban is one who does.

A radical anti-Communist, the postgraduate law student is leading Hungary's youth party, the Liberal Federation of Young Democrats (FIDESZ), into country's first free national elections since 1945.

Polls suggest FIDESZ, restricted to Hungarians under 35, is certain to inject young blood into Hungary's young democracy by winning a cluster of seats in the new parliament.

As Orban, 27, concludes a campaign debate with a ruling Socialist Party rival at a Budapest cinema, old ladies approach to shake him by the hand.

They compete with teenagers pushing forward FIDESZ posters, photographs and denim jackets to be autographed by the man they hope may even be a government minister after the March 25 and April 8 elections.

"We are very strong among the pensioners and old people as well as the young," Orban, unshaven and wearing an open-necked shirt under his brown tweed jacket, explained afterwards.

"It's a grandmother effect, to support their own grandchildren. Maybe they recognise their own youth in us."

FIDESZ was founded in March 1988 by Orban and 37 other Budapest students as a non-sectarian rival to the Communist Youth Union KISZ and has since swelled to 5,000 members.

It defied orders to cease activities and survived a year of harassment before it could register officially, gaining a prominent role in the process that has ended Communist control.

FIDESZ is fielding candidates in most constituencies on a platform that includes a market economy and welfare state, withdrawal of Soviet troops by June 16 this year and dissolution of the Warsaw Pact and NATO military blocs.

A Gallup organisation opinion poll published on March 12 indicated it would win about six per cent of votes, which would make it Hungary's sixth-strongest party and guarantee it a place in the new national assembly.

This would give FIDESZ a voice in the coalition bargaining certain to follow the elections, in which its close ally, the Alliance

of Free Democrats, is a joint frontrunner.

Orban ruled out coalition talks with the Socialist Party, successors to the Communist Party wound up last October, and the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party of diehard Communists. But he said all other parties were possible partners.

"Any of them," was his reply when asked what ministerial job would suit him.

"I can't expect that somebody from FIDESZ will be prime minister but I think if we were invited we have at least three people who could be prime minister tomorrow," he said.

He was referring to himself and fellow FIDESZ co-founders Gabor Fodor and Tamas Deutsch.

Orban, married with an eight-month-old daughter, earned his political spurs as a student at a specialised law faculty in Budapest which he termed an "island of free thinking" under Communism.

On June 16, 1989, he shot to national fame with a ringing denunciation of Communist leaders and the Soviet Union during the emotional rebuff of Imre Nagy, the reformist who set up a multi-party government during Hungary's failed 1956 uprising.

Nagy was hanged for treason on June 16, 1958.

"I am not able to put in words how I felt at that time," Orban said of his televised speech to massed mourners in Budapest's Heroes' Square.

His blunt speech drew severe fire from the government, which felt obliged to assure Moscow that it disapproved of Orban's views. The controversy only enhanced Orban's domestic reputation as a thorn in the side of Communists.

Orban was involved in round-table talks between the Communists and opposition parties last summer that set the terms of Hungary's transition to democracy.

He began a nine-month scholarship to England's Oxford University last October but interrupted his stay in January to return home and fight the elections.

He said he hoped perhaps to resume his Oxford law studies after the summer but recognised that they may have to wait.

"I don't really know when I'll go back," Orban said. "Not never, but later."

Closing ranks in Tobruk

By John Fullerton
Reuters

CAIRO — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's weekend summit meeting with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in Libya marked a closing of Arab ranks prompted in part by radical changes sweeping the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

Diplomatic and political analysts also viewed the Tobruk summit sponsored by Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi as capping years of sustained effort by Mubarak in mending his country's relations with the Arab World.

Statements by Mubarak and Assad referred to the urgent need for Arab unity in the age of superpower detente and change in Europe.

"The Arab Nation badly needs strong solidarity and unity of thought to be able to face economic blocs," said Mubarak.

Assad said: "Unless we move towards unity, the future of the Arab Nation with all its countries will be in danger."

"This does not mean that we are pessimistic. We should be optimistic and we should couple this optimism with action."

Qadhafi cited the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel as an example of superpower detente working against Arab interests.

"The danger (threatening the Arabs) is greater than our personal positions, greater

than regional borders, greater than our self interests," he said.

"The danger threatens all the (Arab) Nation and the enemy does not distinguish between this Arab or that Arab," Qadhafi added.

Just back from a trip to the Middle East with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, Kenneth Stein, a director at the Carter Presidential Centre in Atlanta, said he was surprised at the depth of Arab resentment.

"Unless we move towards unity, the future of the Arab Nation with all its countries will be in danger. This does not mean that we are pessimistic. We should be optimistic and we should couple this optimism with action."

"Stein said officials in Jordan, Egypt and Syria 'believe there is a conspiracy — that Moscow is providing the bodies (Jews) and Washington is providing the money — and that the United States and the Soviet Union are doing this intentionally to hurt the Arabs.'"

"This (summit) is something of a triumph for Mubarak," said a Cairo-based Western diplomat. "He has managed to mend fences with Libya and Syria without giving anything away."

The only Arab country to

have made peace with Israel, Egypt had long been at odds with the two Arab states that staunchly oppose any form of compromise with the Jewish state.

In October, Mubarak and Qadhafi agreed to bury the hatchet and open offices in each other's capitals.

Egypt, the largest recipient of U.S. aid after Israel, balances ties with Washington by closely coordinating its diplomacy with the PLO and is currently trying to arrange a

attend the Cairo talks.

"Egyptian peace efforts have run into a brick wall where Israel is concerned," said a European diplomat. "Bringing Syria into the ballpark may help swing things the Arabs' way."

The analysts were watching closely to see whether Assad could be modifying his policies in return for wider acceptance in Arab councils.

The Soviet envoy to Syria, Alexander Zotov, was quoted by the Washington Post late last year as saying that Moscow wanted Syria to abandon a quest for strategic parity with Israel and adopt a policy of military deterrence instead.

Egyptian officials have long said privately that Syria cannot be excluded from the Middle East peace process if there is to be real progress in ending the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Michael Hudson, director of the Centre for Contemporary Arab Studies at Washington's Georgetown University, said the United States would not be unhappy over Egyptian-Syrian rapport.

Instead, the U.S. administration had long felt that Syria's strategic role was inescapable, and had endeavoured to keep lines open to the Syrian leadership at a high level.

Hudson described the current U.S. ambassador to Damascus as high-powered with second-to-none access to Assad and his aides.

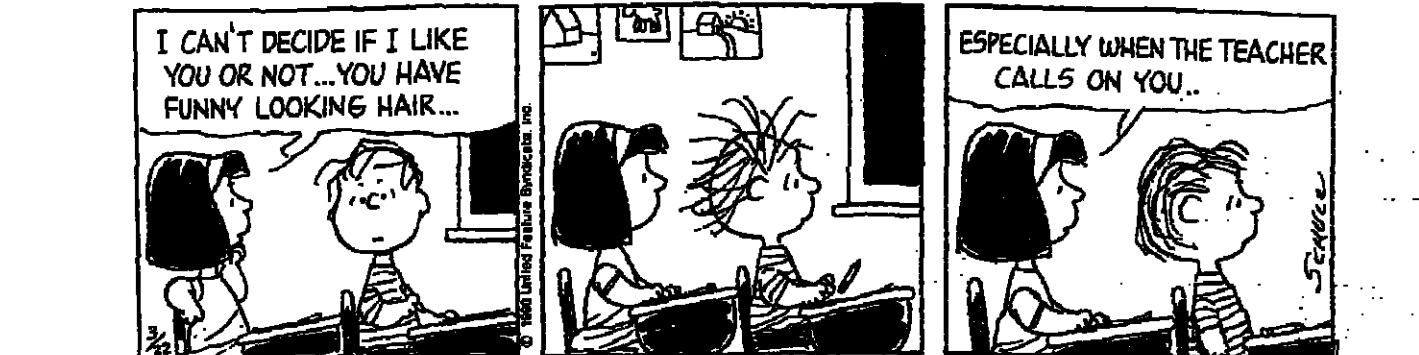
Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



Conservation of archaeology — a national strategy

Following is the first part of a lecture delivered by **Ghazi Sami** at the American Centre for Oriental Research in Amman. The second part will appear in Tuesday's issue of the Jordan Times.

THE 20th century brought fast economic development to all countries in the world, and in the same time rapid depletion of natural resources. This process endangers life on earth for the coming generations.

A world conservation strategy is needed to coordinate efforts, and to implement concerted actions at national and international levels, to sustain development and to support life in future.

It should be stated that preservation of environment and natural resources is the most difficult responsibility for Jordan. Our population has increased by eight folds in the last 40 years, mainly because of forced eviction of Palestinians from their homeland. The city of Amman is unique in a sense that its population increased by 40 folds in 40 years.

Water which is the source of life is not adequate. By the year 2000 Jordan will not have enough drinking water for its growing population. Limited financial resources will have their impact in the years to come on the capability to keep sound environment.

Jordan has joined efforts to protect natural resources by preparing a national strategy. A law for the protection of environment will be based on this strategy outlines. A report was prepared by a working group on archaeology and cultural resources:

Scope and importance

Jordan is considered one of the earliest countries inhabited by man. Some sites like Abu Hail in the Jordan Valley dates back to 1.5 million years.

Around 60,000 to 70,000 archaeological sites could be counted. This fact made it very difficult to distinguish between archaeological sites and non-archaeological sites. The entire country is a big museum. To protect these sites the starting point should be that ownership of a property entails responsibility

for antiquities on that property. Thus a comprehensive inventory of archaeological sites should be prepared. Details should be included in the register at the department of land and survey, and put on maps.

Three categories of archaeological sites could be outlined:

- Sites of outstanding national importance to be preserved at all costs. The site and its environment should be equally protected.
- Sites in poor condition and of marginal importance, which could be demolished after documentation.
- Sites now demolished where protection is not considered appropriate.

To illustrate the scope of the problems of preserving archaeological sites, I will present a case study of a small village in Salt district. The name is Jal'ad.

Jal'ad village is part of Balqa Governorate, located 32 kilometres north west of Amman. Its altitude ranges between 600 and 800 metres above sea level.

Jal'ad is predominantly an Ayyubid-Mamluk Islamic village. Its name Jal'ad is derived from Arabic, which means hard rock. The fact that there are three water springs in the village, one of which is still yielding water, insured a semi-permanent human occupation in the site.

Jal'ad was visited by several scholars. The only dig that took place in the area happened in 1973 by Dr. Hussein Qandil. The finds are now exhibited in Salt Museum.

It is well established that Jal'ad could not be identified with Biblical Ramoth-Gilead or Mizpah (Gilead of Jacob). This could be confirmed by the Oxford Biblical Atlas and other similar publications.

Jal'ad is the most important site in its region according to Dalman. The site is very rich in Roman, Byzantine and Islamic antiquities, more than 50 archaeological spots can be easily

identified.

The most important prominent of its remains is the Roman family mausoleum dating back to the second century A.D. Similar forms could be found in Quseimeh and Nuweijis. It has two niches and a rose window over the door.

The site also contains five water cisterns, one of which is of distinct engineering construction. It has a rectangular form and an opening for ventilation. The others have oval shape and are all carved in the rock with a plaster finish.

Also found is an old Roman wine press engraved in the rocks and is still in good condition. An Ayyubid olive press could also be seen in one of the caves. The old Necropolis of Jal'ad, described by

The most important site in the village is the Mar Elias Chapel, whose walls were used in 1936 to build a house. Three of the remaining mosaic floors were completely destroyed in 1986 and a concrete house built instead, the only existing remains are a cave and an underground tomb.

The adjacent site (Jaloud), is a fortified Ayyubid settlement. It was partially damaged in 1987 when its southern corner was bulldozed to make way for a farm road. The same year the eastern area of the spring of Jaloud was damaged in search of the water which disappeared in 1934. Stones from the site were used to build boundary walls for adjacent land. It is important to note that Jaloud is a public property protected by the law.

In spite of all protests the plan was approved with small adjustments. Dr. Ghazi Bishah, director of the Department of Antiquities, demanded that the Ministry of Rural Affairs should reconsider the plan to protect the archaeological sites.

Jal'ad is also unique in its ecological nature which is apparent in its flowers and plants most of the known flora of Jordan could be found in and around the village. The surrounding woods are of great beauty where oaks, pistachus and kharoub trees are common. Some oak trees are 800 years old whereas several olive trees are more than 1000 years old.

In the last 15 years, at least 50 per cent of the woods were uprooted to plant olive trees. The face of Jal'ad is changing rapidly from green to an ugly grey-brown under this new development.

In 1980, a modern agricultural project was launched on the slopes of Jal'ad. The fertile land surface was fully bulldozed and the project ended in a total loss for investors in addition to the ecological damage. The whole area is now under the control of the Zarqa River Basin Project where better handling for the technological problems is expected.

Conclusions

- Towns and villages of historical importance should be planned only after a survey by the Department of Antiquities to avoid further destruction. A representative of the department should be nominated in the Supreme Council of rural planning.

- Land survey by the Ministry of Agriculture should be prepared to protect farm lands and woods in the villages. Rocky lands should be allocated for housing. A law should be enacted for this purpose.

- Forest land is scarce and therefore must be protected. Fruit trees like pistachio or almonds could be planted in open spaces within the same area. Olive trees should not be planted on the cost of destroying forests in Jordan.

Jordan has joined efforts to protect natural resources by preparing a national strategy. A law for the protection of environment will be based on this strategy outlines. A report was prepared by a working group on archaeology and cultural resources

Conservation

N. Gluck, with its 10 tombs of rectangular shafts sunk in rock is already demolished. It is now the site of the village school and 3 neighbouring modern houses.

Fourteen tombs of the same form still exist in the village and in good condition. Their date goes back to the second and eighth century A.D. according to the excavation done by Dr. Hussein Qandil in 1973. Several cave-tombs were also discovered. One of which has built-in arches similar to those in Umm-Rassas.

The existing remains of the Ayyubid mosque within the site needs urgent restoration.

An old Roman Bath, with a vaulted ceiling was also discovered. The bath was partly damaged by the use of a bulldozer in search of a water spring in 1986.

In 1987 Jal'ad was given the status of a village with a local council. Only one of these nominated is able to read and write well. A plan for the village's infrastructure was created by an experienced architect. Methods applied were same as those in highly developed parts of the country.

Autostrads of 68 metres width were to cut the village from east to west. Another belt road of 20 metres width was planned to surround the village boundaries.

This plan would have not only destroyed the archaeological remains in the village, it would have also damaged agricultural land already allocated for housing.

Carnavalet museum — a place full of surprises

By Claire Thierry

THE YEAR of the bicentenary also meant a revolution, but, this time, a peaceful one, for the most Parisian museum, the Carnavalet, whose renovated and enlarged premises opened to the public last summer.

The Carnavalet museum, installed in a sumptuous private mansion in the Marais district (Madame de Sevigne lived there), had been slumbering since its creation in 1880. It mainly housed decorative and architectural pieces rescued from demolitions resulting from the considerable city-planning work which changed the face of the French capital last century.

Beneath the sumptuous decoration of this 16th century mansion, visitors can discover the history of Paris from its origins up until today, revealed by sculpture, paintings, photographs, objects and furniture. But the re-

serves contained many treasures which were out of sight for lack of space.

With the transformation of a neighbouring building, dating from the 17th century, the museum doubled its area, which now amounts to nearly 13,000 square metres and it can finally display most of its collections.

The work took five years and was finished in the middle of the celebrations of the bicentenary of the French Revolution... which gave the museum many of its riches. These are finally on show. The head curator, Bernard de Montgolfier, points out that "The most complete, most lively and most moving documentation on that crucial period is found here."

Coincidence or complicity, that unique collection on the revolution, which was cramped into three rooms, now has a complete floor to itself, in a residence having belonged to Le Peletier de Saint-Fargeau, a deputy of the

nobility, won over to the revolution, who voted for King Louis XVI's death and died from it, assassinated for revenge, in 1793.

Thanks to the restoration, the rooms present the atmosphere of the period. Portraits of the heroes of the time pass before our eyes: Robespierre, Danton, Marat, La Fayette and Louis XVI (in his last portrait by Ducreux). One can also see the royal family's furniture in the "Temple" prison, and the forty cut-out gouaches painted by Le Sueur, which are a real comic-strip of the Revolution. And then, biggledy-piggledy, Danton's shaving dish, the Dauphin's school-books and a model of the Bastille carved out of the very stone of that disgraced prison.

From the empire to the Belle Epoque, the 19th century is also amply illustrated with portraits of Talleyrand and Madame de Recamier, Chateaubriand's muse, the day bed of the imperial

prince, scenes from Bohemian life in the Romantic period, and moving pictures from the revolutionary days Paris lived through in July 1830 and in 1848. And it is hard not to laugh at the astonishing gallery of caricatures, sculptures, in the form of statuettes, of personalities (writers, politicians, musicians, singers, etc.) from last century, carved by Danton's fierce chisel.

From the early 20th century, one will, above all, retain the very beautiful decorative pieces: the long-drawn-out curves of the drawing-room in the Cafe de Paris, made by the architect Henri Sauvage, in 1899; and the luxurious Art Nouveau interlacing and stained-glass windows of Fouquet's jewellery shop, imagined, in 1900 by Alphonse Mucha. Madame de Wendel's vast ballroom is also astonishing, with its purple and silver decor, painted by the Catalan artist Jose Maria Sert, brilliantly reinter-

preting the Italian baroque style on the theme of the meeting between the Queen of Sheba and King Solomon.

Other, more intimate, discoveries, among these reconstructions, include the rooms of writers. There is Marcel Proust's black and yellow room, covered in cork, the poet Anna de Noailles' from which a boudoir scent escapes, and Paul Leautaud's, which is realistic with its chamber pot and armchair whose worn velvet has known the claws of generations of cats.

This museum of charm and emotion has other surprises tucked away for its visitors (over 230,000 a year). There is a bookshop, a modernised reception area, a children's workshop and a graphic arts studio (with 300,000 items) which has been completely refurbished. By 1993, there are plans for an auditorium seating 170. — (L'Actualite en France).



The salon of Mrs. Wendel in Carnavalet Museum (photo by M. Dubroca).

Senators

(Continued from page 1)

almost all the American "legislators, albeit elected by U.S. citizens, largely reflect the views of international Zionism."

He said the resolution's impact on the peace process hinged on the reaction of the White House, which has recently shown flexibility as to deal with the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"President George Bush's recent declarations about the importance of keeping Jerusalem a united city and former President Jimmy Carter's remarks against settling Soviet Jewry in the occupied territories signal a positive sign from the American administration towards solving the conflict," he said.

Kuwait condemns U.S. move

Kuwait Sunday condemned as a severe blow to peace efforts the U.S. Senate resolution.

The Kuwaiti cabinet condemns "the raising of this issue by the Senate at this juncture and considers the move a crushing blow to peace efforts and a flagrant defiance of the international will in general and that of Arab and Islamic nations in particular," said the minister of state for cabinet affairs, Rashid Abdul Aziz Al Rashid.

He made the statement following a regular weekly session of the cabinet.

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Players tourney to stay in Key Biscayne

KEY BISCAINE, Florida (AP) — The chairman of the International Players Championships said Saturday he expects the tournament to remain on Key Biscayne for another year despite a legal battle over plans to build a permanent stadium.

The dispute has prompted speculation that the \$2.5-million event will move. Scottsdale, Arizona, has expressed an interest in hosting the tournament, tennis most prestigious except for the Grand Slams.

I can't imagine not being back here in 1991, chairman Butch Buchholz said. Something very, very radical would have to happen.

A decision about next year's tournament must be made by June, Buchholz said.

Our mission is to stay here, he said. If we can't for legal reasons, we'll put it out to bid.

The tournament stadium, located on Dade County property, has had temporary grandstands since Buchholz and his brother Cliff brought the event from Boca Raton, Florida, to Key Biscayne in 1987.

The association of tennis professionals and the Women's International Tennis Association insist the tournament cannot remain on the island off Miami unless a permanent 12,000-seat stadium is built, and the groups want construction to start by December 1991.

A world-class event needs a permanent stadium, Hamilton Jordan, outgoing head of the ATP, said recently.

Key Biscayne homeowners have filed a lawsuit to block a permanent stadium, saying it would be used for events other than tennis and would lead to further development. There also is opposition to a permanent stadium because the two tennis groups are asking taxpayers to pay for \$13 million of the estimated \$16-million construction cost.

If we can't do it here, we'll get 12,000 seats somewhere else, Buchholz said.

We've bent over backwards and spent thousands and thousands of dollars trying to relieve them of their anxieties, which were that we were going to have rock concerts, mud-wrestling and tractor pulls, he said.

The county has assured them that's not going to happen. We've assured them that's not going to happen.

It's unknown when a court decision will be issued on the lawsuit but, whatever the ruling, the losing side is expected to appeal.

The event was created to be the players' own tournament. Ironically, they have been most critical of it.

Seles wins 2nd tournament title

KEY BISCAINE, Florida (AP) — Monica Seles made it look easy, partly because it was.

The 16-year-old Yugoslavian, capitalizing on upsets that eliminated the other favorites, won her second tournament title Saturday by beating Judith Wiesner 6-1, 6-2 in the finals of the International Players Championships.

Seles, seeded third and ranked fifth, breezed through the 96-player field without dropping a set in her six matches. Because of upsets, the highest-seeded player she had to face was no. 9 Nathalie Tauziat.

It helped a little bit, and it didn't help a little bit, Seles said. I was always feeling pressure that it wouldn't be that great for the tournament if all the seeds were being upset.

Second-seeded Zina Garrison lost her first match, celebrated 13-year-old Jennifer Capriati fell in the fourth

round and top seed Gabriela Sabatini lost in the quarter-finals.

I was sure Gabriela was going to get to the finals, said Seles, who earned \$112,500. But these players ranked for in the 20s and 30s can be dangerous if they have a good week.

There have also been several upsets in the men's draw, where no. 3 seed Stefan Edberg will meet no. 5 Andre Agassi in Sunday's finals. Edberg beat Agassi in four sets March 12 in the finals of the champions cup at Indian Wells, California.

Seles, whose other tournament win came to the Virginia Slims of Houston last April, had won only two of five matches this year when she arrived at Key Biscayne.

I can say I was full of confidence, she said. I didn't think I was going to win it. I was happy just to get to the quarter-finals.

Wiesner, seeded 15th and ranked 29th, beat players

seeded fourth, fifth and seventh on the way to her first berth in the finals of a major tournament. But the 24-year-old Austrian had only one break point against Seles and lost it.

I really had problems with her game, Wiesner said. It's different from anybody else. She hits the ball so hard and takes it so early, you really don't have time to recover.

Seles won two quick service breaks against Wiesner for a 3-0 lead and finished the set in 28 minutes.

I was able to do a lot on her serve, Seles said. And my serve.

Wiesner was serving with a 2-2, 30-0 lead in the second set. But she lost four consecutive points, the final two on unforced errors, and never got back into the match.

I played pretty good before this match, Wiesner said. I was quite happy to reach the finals. I hope I can keep up this level of play.

Kenya loses men's individual title, but team proves depth

AIX LES BAINS, France (AP) — The track-and-field world is well aware of the prowess of Kenya's male distance runners. Now the East African nation's women are threatening to get in on the act.

Even though Kenya's John Ngugi failed to win his fifth straight world cross country title Saturday, his compatriots dominated the championships, winning three of four team categories.

In addition to the senior and junior men's titles, Kenya served notice it is closing the gender gap by winning the junior women's event, with four of the top 10 finishes.

Ngugi, the pre-race favorite, finished 20th in the 12-kilometer men's race, won by Khalid Skah of Morocco. But other Kenyans

took five of the top 10 places, and did likewise in the junior men's race.

The Soviet Union won the senior women's team title, while the individual title went to Lynn Jennings, the first winner from the United States in 15 years.

Although Skah won with a stretch drive, Jennings was ready for a virtual wire-to-wire victory, saying the use of a horse racing course for part of the race made her feel like a thoroughbred.

At the starting box, there was a rope in front of you, Jennings said. Then they called to the line. Somehow in translating from French to English, it made me feel like I was ready for the Kentucky Derby.

It made me feel like a steed. I remember I was pawing the

ground.

Once she burst from the starting gate, the 29-year-old from New Hampshire raced away to a 12-second final margin, covering the six kilometers in 19 minutes, 21 seconds.

This was my fifth world, Jennings said. And now to get first place after five tries, it feels wonderful.

Jennings was second in 1986 and fourth, fourth and sixth the previous three years.

But Saturday there was no stopping her on a grassy, rolling terrain that started and ended on a turf horse track with a slight detour over a golf course.

She broke away from the pack to take a 10-metre lead after the first kilometre and stretched it throughout the race.

Skah: A new Moroccan star emerges

AIX-LES-BAINS, France (R) — Morocco unearthed a new star of long-distance running as the relatively unknown Khalid Skah won the world cross country title for king and country.

The imperious manner in which Skah disposed of the challenge of the powerful Kenyan team and the impish way in which he celebrated his victory marked him out as an authentic new character on the athletics scene.

The 23-year-old law student is the second Moroccan to follow Said Aouita into the spotlight —

after Ibrahim Boutayeb's equally surprising Olympic 10,000 metres triumph in Seoul — and is unlikely to be the last.

"There are a lot of others just waiting to come through," the chirpy and likeable Skah said with a grin after beating the world's best Saturday.

Skah showed an Aouita touch in the race, moving to the front 300 metres from the end of the

12.3-kilometres course with a blistering turn of pace which the four thoroughbred Kenyans with him could not match.

He confidently held off their challenge in the final sprint, waved to acknowledge his victory 10 metres from the line and crossed the tape just ahead of Moses Tami and Julius Korir.

"I dedicate my victory to the king of Morocco," he said. "I am

very proud and very happy. I came here to win and I won — thanks to the hard work and preparation I put in."

If Skah owes something to Aouita's racing style, he is anything but a carbon copy.

His exuberant, extrovert personality contrasts sharply with that of the supreme record-breaker and his training methods are highly individualistic, too.

Duke in fourth final in 5 years

NEW YORK (AP) — Just when it seemed the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament couldn't get any wilder, it did.

Christian Laettner's 5-metre jumper at the buzzer beat Connecticut 79-78 in overtime Saturday and sent Duke to its fourth final in five years. Then Arkansas withstood a late Texas rally and defeated the longhorns for the third time this season, 88-85, to reach the national semifinals for the first time since 1978.

Fantastic finishes have been common in this year's tournament, where a third of the games have been decided by three points or less, five have gone to overtime, and almost a dozen have gone down to the last shot.

Third-ranked Connecticut, which beat Clemson on Tate George's buzzer-beater in the east regional semifinals, was beaten by a similar shot Saturday in the regional final at the meadowlands in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

It appeared the Huskies (31-6) were going to pull off another improbably victory when Dukes Alaa Abdelnaby was called for goaltending on a missed free throw by Nadav Henefeld with 1:28 left. The free throw was ruled good and Henefeld then hit the bonus for a 78-77 lead.

But George missed a 3-pointer with 11 seconds left, then just missed a steal and slapped the

ball out of bounds, giving Duke a chance with 2.3 seconds remaining.

Vincent continues extortion investigation on Yankees

NEW YORK (AP) — Baseball commissioner Fay Vincent said Saturday that he is looking into the relationship of George Steinbrenner and gambler Howie Spira, indicted Friday on charges of extortion involving the Yankees owner.

Vincent, speaking to reporters at the Baltimore Orioles spring training facility in Sarasota, Florida, said he is investigating reports of a \$40,000 payment from Steinbrenner to Spira.

Steinbrenner has said the money was a gift given out of the goodness of his heart.

What I've said is that I am looking into those reports, gathering information, Vincent said. But beyond that, I don't have anything to comment on.

If the commissioner chooses to have any kind of investigation, Steinbrenner said at the Yankees camp in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, well welcome it and cooperate fully. I assume it will go back to Spira's beginnings in baseball.

Spira was released Saturday afternoon on a \$50,000 bond secured by his parents and ordered

by U.S. magistrate Barbara A. Lee to surrender to Florida authorities before April 23.

The defendant did not speak during the 20-minute hearing, and on the advice of public defender Roland Thau declined to speak afterward with reporters.

Thau agreed with Vincent that Steinbrenner's role in the case needed investigation, it would do all of us a bit of good if he be scrutinized.

The indictment by a Tampa, Florida, grand jury did not mention the \$40,000 payment.

FBI spokesman Joe Valiquette said Spira was charged with making extortionate demands on George M. Steinbrenner and added:

He also allegedly threatened to release information about Steinbrenner and employees of the New York Yankees which would damage their reputations.

In addition, he is alleged to have illegally recorded a conversation he had with Steinbrenner in furtherance of his extortion scheme.

If convicted, Spira could face 23 years in jail and a fine of up to \$2 million, said Valiquette.

Laettner inbounded the ball, took a return pass from Brian Davis, dribbled once, double-clutched and swished the game-winner to improve Dukes NCAA tournament record at the Meadowlands to 8-0.

The 15th-ranked Blue Devils (28-8) will play No. 7 Arkansas (30-4) in a national semifinal in Denver. The other semifinalists will be determined Sunday, when No. 9 Georgia Tech plays No. 20 Minnesota for the southeast regional championship, and No. 2 UNLV meets No. 21 Loyola Marymount for the West regional title.

At the midwest championship game in Dallas, Lee Mayberry keyed a second-half surge that gave Arkansas a 16-point lead and the razorbacks held on to win the battle of southwest conference rivals.

Lenzie Howells two free throws and dunk gave Arkansas an 86-78 lead with 1:05 left. But he missed the front of a 1-and-1 18 seconds later and Texas pulled to 86-83 on Lance blanks 3-pointers with 34 seconds left.

Texas got the ball back and had a chance to tie after Arkansas' Todd Day missed a free throw, but Travis Mays missed a 3-point attempt with 18 seconds left.

Namibia makes debut at cross country meet

AIX LES BAINS, France (AP) — Less than a week old as a nation, Namibia made a modest international sporting debut Saturday at the world cross country championships.

Its only competitor, Gabriel Awash, ended up 169th out of 226 finishers in the men's race, more than three minutes behind the winner, Khalid Skah of Morocco.

However, Namibia's national rugby team, also making its post-independence debut, defeated Zimbabwe 38-18 Saturday in a match in Windhoek, Namibia.

Namibia became independent Wednesday after 75 years of South African rule.

As a territory, it had been subjected to the same sports

boycotts imposed on South Africa, although Apartheid was not as extensive in Namibia.

As independence approached, Namibian sports bodies made contacts with international associations to break the isolation.

Over the weekend, the possibility of renewed sports ties with South Africa were discussed in Aix Les Bains by members of the International Amateur Athletic Federation, the ruling body of world track.

South African athletes have been barred from major track competitions since the 1960s.

Foreign athletes competing there have been subject to disciplinary measures.

Primo Nebiolo, president of the IAAF, and three African members of the IAAF council —

Lamine Diack of Senegal, Hassan Agabani of Sudan and Charles Mukora as Kenya — conferred Saturday with Fekru Kidane of Ethiopia, the chairman of the international campaign against apartheid.

They agreed that significant changes have been made in South Africa that opened the way for further discussion.

Another meeting will be held in Dakar, Senegal, in June.

Nebiolo and the Africans will meet there with a South African track and field delegation to consist of three blacks and three whites.

In October, at the African Championships in Cairo, they intend to ask Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak to invite Mandela and a group of South African leaders to Cairo to further discuss the issue.

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North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 NT Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AK73 ♠J97 ♠J873 ♠92
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠8 ♠K4 ♠96542 ♠J9765
Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What action do you take?

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠J2 ♠Q764 ♠K932 ♠AJ97
Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠87632 ♠AKJ54 ♠8 ♠63
Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond? Look for answers on Monday.

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Hungarians vote in free elections

BUDAPEST (AP) — More than half the registered voters in some places had cast ballots by midday Sunday, as millions vote in Hungary's first free national elections in 42 years.

The ruling Socialist Party candidates were expected to fare poorly in the parliamentary elections, despite their efforts to win approval by leading Hungary toward democracy in the last year.

Premier Miklos Nemeth, a Reform Socialist candidate and a key engineer of the nation's conversion to democracy, conceded before casting his ballot that he probably would not win his election and declared he would relinquish control head high and with a clear conscience.

Selection officials reported a turnout of nearly 50 per cent in some Budapest wards by noon (1000 GMT), four hours after the voting began and eight hours before the last polls were scheduled to close at 8 p.m. (1800 GMT). Some unofficial results were expected by late Sunday or early Monday.

Nemeth, who voted at a state-run kindergarten serving as one of the 11,000 polling stations, declined to predict the chances of his Socialist Party, the new name for the Communist Party that took power in 1947.

The only thing I hope for is that a strong government is created, Nemeth said. He added that only a government not hamstrung by the opposition can deal with the nation's ailing economy.

His comments reflected wide-

spread acceptance that the Socialists will not do well despite its role, unique in Eastern Europe, in steering Hungary to democratic reform after they defected from the Communist Party in October.

Instead of crediting the Socialists for volunteering to play by democratic rules, most voters remember the excesses of more than four decades of one-party rule that have made Communism unpopular throughout the Soviet Bloc.

I won't consider it an act of God if I don't make it into government, Nemeth told reporters outside the polling centre. I will hand over the reins head high and with a clear conscience. I don't have bitterness in my heart but satisfaction.

Throughout the month-long official campaign for 394 parliamentary seats, Socialist candidates attempted to persuade the electorate of their commitment to a multiparty system.

But pre-election opinion polls indicated the Socialists will finish no higher than fourth place, with a maximum 10 per cent of the overall vote.

A March 12 Gallup poll showed the Hungarian Democratic Forum — a centre-right party with nationalist leanings — leading with 22 per cent support,

followed by the liberal Free Democrats at 20.3 per cent and the independent Smallholders, a mainly rural party, at 15.7 per cent.

While proposing a variety of solutions on how to complete the transformation from an ossified command economy to one obeying free market rules, most of the 29 parties espouse either centre-right or centre-left ideas. Election rules call for a second round in case no single party wins an absolute majority Sunday, leading to expectations that scattered voter loyalties would force a runoff — tentatively on April 8.

Even new elections, however, were not expected to determine a clear winner, making a coalition government the most likely scenario.

The Socialists were unlikely to play a role much beyond Sunday, with leading parties such as the Democratic Forum and the Free Democrats repeatedly stating they would not accept them as government partners.

Democratic Forum Chairman Jozsef Antall refused comment when asked by reporters about possible coalition partners.

He also declined to predict on how well his party would do. Antall, a medical historian, said of the elections: "We want a free Hungary. And I'm happy that we've come this far."

Free Democrat leader Janos Kis said he was a moderate optimist about his party's chances, adding he expected it to be one of the top two finishers.

Hungary, Romania on coalition course

BUCHAREST (AP) — Hungary Sunday denounced an arson fire that damaged the Bucharest office of Hungary's Malev airlines as a "terrorist" attack.

Meanwhile, hundreds of people rallied to protest alleged plans by ethnic Hungarians in Transylvania to secede from Romania.

Hours after the blaze at the Malev office, Hungary demanded Romania take steps against what it branded terrorist acts and protect Hungarian citizens and offices in the country, Hungary's MTI news agency said.

Despite appeals from the Romanian government for calm, anti-Hungarian feeling erupted at rallies by several hundred people in Bucharest. Smaller protests were reported in other towns.

In Tirgu Mures, where the strife dividing Transylvania's ethnic Hungarian minority and Romanian nationalists exploded in violence last week, about 1,000 Romanian churchgoers prayed for peace and an end to ethnic unrest in the square outside the city's Orthodox Cathedral.

In Bucharest, about 700 people chanting "Tirgu Mures is Romania and barbarians behind bars" circled the headquarters of the interim government on Victory Square. Troops and paramilitary police armed with automatic rifles and batons guarded the government building.

Lithuanian legislators joke nervously as Soviet tanks go by

VILNIUS, USSR (AP) — For nearly four hours in the predawn darkness, Lithuanian legislators joked nervously and prepared for the worst as Soviet tanks headed towards their capital, then rolled by without firing a shot.

While the city slept early Saturday, 98 lawmakers watched and traded macabre jokes as paratroopers armed with automatic weapons, 59 armoured vehicles and 50 trucks rumbled by the parliament building.

From midnight (2200 GMT) until nearly 4 a.m. (0200 GMT), they did not know whether Lithuania's attempt to declare its independence from the Soviet Union would end in bloodshed 13 days after it began.

Despite Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's promise he would not use force, the psychological warfare escalated all week with ultimatums, demands that Lithuanians disarm and brief displays of military might.

We were almost sure they would not, said legislator Andrus Butkavichius.

But as the hours wore on after Lithuanian police alerted the parliament that the armoured column was 70 kilometres away from Vilnius, the jokes tended toward lines such as, remember Allende, and remember Czechoslovakia, said legislator Valdas Katkus.

The references were to the Marxist president of Chile who was slain or committed suicide in a 1973 coup and the 1968 Soviet-led invasion that ended Czechoslovakia's "Prague Spring" reforms.

We decided we were equal forces, since the first report put the number of vehicles in the column at 98 — the same number of deputies still in the parliament chamber after midnight, said legislator Juozas Karvelis, a Klaipeda Harbour pilot.

Some people were nervous, especially when they noticed that the Communist Party leaders were not among us, Karvelis said. We decided they knew something and we didn't.

Karvelis was joking, but his quip revealed an element of doubt about the status of Lithuanian Communist leaders. Most of those elected in the republic's recent parliamentary balloting broke with Moscow to support Lithuanian independence.

The Communist Party leader, Algirdas Brazauskas, said he left the session Friday evening and slept through the excitement.

But as the lawmakers smiled and joked, they prepared for the worst.

Their concern was heightened because two Soviet ultimatums expired Saturday: One threatening forcible capture of Lithuanian deserters from the Soviet army; the other ordering to halt to the organisation of a Lithuanian border guard.

At 2:25 a.m. (0025 GMT), the parliament's press office sent an urgent message to international news media saying the tanks were just 30 kilometres away.

Please help spread the news, it pleaded.

By that time, Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis had suggested adoption of an emergency resolution stating that in the event of Soviet aggression, government power would be delegated to the man who has served as Lithuania's diplomatic representative in Washington for years, Stasys Lozovskis.

Deputies wrangled over the wording, finally prompting an exasperated Landsbergis to warn that the Soviet troops could arrive before the body acted.

At 2:43 a.m. (0043 GMT) the legislators adopted the resolution. Less than an hour later, some 30 deputies raced from the building to lean over a railing 100 metres away and watch the armour rumble past, a seemingly endless row of headlights in the dark.

At that point, Butkavichius said, they still did not know whether the force would wear off the highway to take over the city. He said he found a sympathetic soldier from the neighbouring republic of Latvia who told him the unit was heading for the Sismurs Miestelis army base in north Vilnius.

Karvelis said there was still enough concern that ten lawmakers spent what remained of the night in the parliament building with Landsbergis in case the army came to arrest him.

It is not just Lithuania's fate that hung in the balance Saturday morning, said legislator Volodya Yarmakowski.

If the situation is destabilised here, it will be destabilised throughout the Soviet Union, he said.

Pyramid of unknown pharaonic queen uncovered

CAIRO (R) — French archaeologists uncovered the base of a limestone pyramid apparently belonging to a queen missing from ancient Egyptian history, according to reports in Egyptian newspapers.

The 4,200-year-old pyramid in the Necropolis of Saqqara, southwest of Cairo, may complete a link in King Pepi I's life. According to historians Pepi, who reigned in the sixth dynasty, was married to three women, but until now only two of his wives' pyramids had been uncovered. But Saturday's reports said the French discovery might be the resting place of the missing third wife according to murals inscribed with hieroglyphics inside the sand covered pyramid which once stood 20 metres high.

The newspaper quoted Zahi Hawass, director-general of the Giza Plateau, as saying the pyramid's discovery "was a new and important addition to ancient Egypt's history."

Experts allowed to examine Hitler's Berlin bunker

WEST BERLIN (R) — The Berlin bunker in which Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler and his mistress killed themselves at the end of World War II will be opened for experts to examine. West Berlin city administrators said on Tuesday that an East German official had given permission for experts to examine the ruins of the bomb-proof shelter near the Brandenburg Gate. The Soviet Red Army was already fighting in the streets of Berlin when Hitler and Eva Braun committed suicide in the underground bunker on April 30, 1945. Aides burned their bodies.

The same day, Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels poisoned his six children, himself and his wife in the bunker. The shelter, built on two floors during the war, lies 16 metres under the garden of Hitler's former headquarters in the Reich chancellery. Efforts by Soviet occupation forces to blow it up after the war were only partly successful. The West Berlin administration said the lower floor was under water at present.

Trotsky letter to Lenin auctioned

NEW YORK (AP) — A handwritten 1918 letter from Russian revolutionary Leon Trotsky to V.I. Lenin was auctioned for \$27,500, an "extreme bargain" in the view of the buyer, a California book dealer. But an original manuscript of drawings and writings by the late actor Orson Welles failed to draw a bid after being offered for \$11,000 at the Swann Galleries auction. Louis Weinstein, owner of the Heritage Bookshop Inc. of Los Angeles, bought the one-page Trotsky letter, and said he planned to offer it for resale at a New York book fair this weekend. "It was very cheap. I expected it would go for \$60,000 to \$70,000," he said. The letter, addressed "Dear Vladimir Ilyich," is considered historically significant because it outlined Trotsky's own plan for a "no war, no peace" settlement with the so-called central powers, led by Germany, near the end of World War I. It also was intended for Lenin's cohort, Josef Stalin. The day's most successful bid was \$57,750 for a 1663 collection of William Shakespeare's "comedies, histories and tragedies," a price nearly three times the initial bid of \$20,000.

Ghostbusting, Hong Kong style

HONG KONG (R) — If you've got ghosts in Hong Kong, who you gonna call? Answer: The colonial government. Officials in the British colony have agreed to pay one million H.K. dollars (\$128,200) for ghostbusters — in the form of Taoist priests — to rid the ancient village of Ha Tsuen of evil spirits. Residents of the village, which dates back to the 13th century Sung Dynasty, claim evil spirits have been disturbed by tunnelling associated with a sewage treatment project in a nearby hill, where many of their ancestors are buried. "Ha Tsuen people are very superstitious," said Tang Chik-Kit, chairman of the village rural committee. "We fear the sewage project will disturb evil spirits near the building site. Although I can't prove it, I believe there are evil spirits on the hill," he said. Most of the cash has gone to build a temporary temple for a group of Taoist priests to carry out 72-hour "fung shui" rites to cleanse the area of evil spirits. Fung shui — literally wind and water in Cantonese — is the art of balancing the five basic elements of gold, wood, water, fire and earth.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Runcie to retire next year

LONDON (R) — Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie, a controversial church leader who drew fire for his comments on religion and British government policies, will retire next year, his office said Sunday. The announcement from the archbishop's Lambeth Palace residence came on the 10th anniversary of his enthronement as leader of the world's 70 million Anglicans. The statement said Runcie's resignation, which had been tendered to Queen Elizabeth, would take effect from Jan. 31, 1991. The archbishop had been due to retire on his 70th birthday in October next year. Runcie said in the statement that he thought the beginning of 1991 was the right time for him to hand over to the next archbishop of Canterbury. "The first half of next year will be a time of fresh initiatives for the Church of England and for the Churches of the British Isles," the statement said. "The public announcement today will give sufficient time for the name of my successor to be known well before the end of this year."

'Baltic boat people' stranded in Poland

WARSAW (R) — Some 500 refugees from Arab and African countries have been granted temporary haven in Poland after Sweden began turning them back. Polish newspapers said Monday. The refugees came to Poland with valid entry visas and took Polish ferries across the Baltic to Sweden, where officials sent them back to Poland, the Warsaw daily Zycie Warszawy said. "A Swedish news agency report alleging the refugees had come to Sweden with forged visas is untrue," the paper added. The Polish News Agency PAP said Sweden had deported 190 on Thursday and Friday and 36 more Saturday. The Solidarity daily Gazeta Wyborcza quoted Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski as saying Poland would not deport the "Baltic boat people" to homelands where they might face political persecution. The refugees, including many families with children, are being housed in Polish holiday centres and at least 100 have gone to Warsaw to seek assistance. They include Libyans, Iranians, Iraqis, Syrians, Somalis and Ethiopians. Most were heading for the Stockholm office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in quest of travel papers to further destinations in the West. Gazeta Wyborcza said.

Boehme denies spying for Stasi

EAST BERLIN (R) — East German Social Democratic (SPD) leader Ibrahim Boehme has denied allegations he spied for the former Stasi security police and urged the SPD to stop talks with other parties until the matter is resolved. The weekly West German news magazine Der Spiegel, available ahead of publication, quoted an unidentified Stasi official as saying he was Boehme's controller and had contact with the politician for a decade. In a letter released to the East German News Agency ADN late Saturday, Boehme said: "Despite these assertions and suspicions I declare that I never worked for or cooperated with the Ministry for State Security (Stasi)." "I reject such suspicions as slander," Boehme, whose party came a distant second to the conservative alliance for Germany in East Germany's first free elections a week ago, called on the SPD to refrain from holding talks until the "Stasi affair has been clarified."

Storm kills 34 in Bangladesh

DHAKA (AP) — Two days of storms pounding most parts of Bangladesh have left at least 34 people dead, 80 injured and thousands homeless, police and news reports said Sunday. Power lines snapped, mud-and-straw houses were blown away and rice crops were uprooted in storms that began Friday night and continued Sunday, the reports said. Seven people, including three children, were killed when their mud houses collapsed on them Friday in Manikganj, 40 kilometres northeast of Dhaka, the Bengali-language Sangbad newspaper said. Also Friday, 10 people were missing after their boat capsized in Manikganj, the worst hit district, police officials said. The missing were presumed dead. Five more people were killed Saturday in house collapses in three northern towns, officials said. They said another storm battered the eastern Comilla district, 90 kilometres east of Dhaka, where at least seven people died in the collapse of houses Saturday. Five people were killed in the southern Barisal and Jhalakathi districts during the last two days, they said. At least 800 people have been injured, most of them when their houses collapsed.

Road collision kills 23 in India

NEW DELHI (AP) — A farm tractor and wagon hauling 44 people to a funeral collided with a truck in western India Saturday, killing 23 people and injuring 26 others, Press Trust of India (PTI) said. The collision happened near the village of Motipura, about 680 kilometres southwest of New Delhi in Gujarat state, the news agency said. The tractor and wagon were carrying 44 people to mourn a relative's death in another village, PTI said. It did not say how many people were in the truck. Tractor-pulled wagons are often used to carry large groups of people to weddings, funerals and festivals in rural India.

Hollywood to hush winners during award ceremony

LOS ANGELES (R) — Oscar winners have only 45 seconds to say "thank you" for Hollywood's top awards before they are drowned out by blaring music at the glittering ceremonies Monday night. The stars have been issued a warning by the show's producer: Make an acceptance speech longer than 25 seconds and a red light will blink, longer than 45 seconds and music will blast you out.

Fans are offering \$2,500 each for tickets, all long gone, and a worldwide television audience of one billion is predicted by the organisers. A thousand metres of red carpet will be rolled out to honour filmfod's finest.

Hollywood is in its annual frenzy of Oscar nerves and most experts believe 80-year-old stage actress Jessica Tandy will win Best Actress for her role in Driving Miss Daisy.

But they are divided on whether the golden statuette for Best Actor will go to the boyish Tom Cruise, for Born on the Fourth of July, or to Morgan Freeman for Driving Miss Daisy.

Cruise portrays the true life story of a wheelchair-bound Vietnam veteran who became an anti-war crusader, while Freeman plays a proud black chauffeur who drives Miss Daisy (Tandy), a Jewish matron in Atlanta, in a film which takes a leisurely look at southern racial issues.

Tandy, married to her stage partner Hume Cronyn, would be the oldest performer to win an Oscar and Freeman would be the first black to win an Academy Award for Best Actor since Sidney Poitier took it in 1964 for Lilies of the Field.

"Driving Miss Daisy led the field with nine nominations, including one for Best Picture, but one man who will be missing Monday night is its director, Australian Bruce Beresford. His not being nominated for Best Director caused a sensation.

Some studios seeking nominations tried a new tactic this year by sending videocassette copies and reviews of their films to the 4,799 voting film industry members who make up the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

The members, including U.S. Ambassador to Czechoslovakia Shirley Temple Black, are a conservative group, some of whom have not made a film for more than 20 years, and Born on the Fourth of July may have upset some.

But, with Beresford missing, its director Oliver Stone, an infantry sergeant wounded in Vietnam, is considered a strong favourite to be chosen Best Director. He won two years ago for another Vietnam war film, "Platoon."

Many experts say a surprise winner could be My Left Foot, with British actor Daniel Day-Lewis, also nominated for Best Actor, as the Irish writer and painter Christy Brown, capable of working only with his left foot because of cerebral palsy.

An Oscar would also be a triumph for Irish stage Director Jim Sheridan. "My Left Foot" is his first film.

Other films nominated for Best Picture are Dead Poets Society, starring Robin Williams as a free-thinking teacher, and the fantasy film of Dreams, with Kevin Costner, about a farmer who lays out a baseball diamond and sees the ghosts of former stars come out of a cornfield to play once again.

Thousands protest U.S. policy in C. America

WASHINGTON (AP) — Thousands marched in front of the White House Saturday to protest U.S. policies in Central America and mark the tenth anniversary of the assassination of a noted Salvadoran priest.

Police estimated 10,000 people joined the demonstration. Police spokesman Sgt. J.P. Farrell said 83 protesters were arrested and charged with demonstrating without a permit.

The group marched peacefully, waved banners and called for a halt to U.S. military aid to El Salvador as a light, steady snow fell.

The march commemorated the assassination 10 years ago of Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero, who was gunned down in his pulpit. He had frequently criticised right-wing death squads linked with the country's military.

The marchers carried a huge bust of Romero and quoted from his speeches over a loudspeaker across the street from the White House.

Meanwhile, in San Francisco, an estimated 5,000 people marched in a chilly fog. Some carried signs remembering Romero.

Though evidence implicating extreme rightists involvement in the assassination was compiled by the 1984-89 Christian Democratic government, no one was charged in the murder.

Among the participants in the Washington demonstration were actor Ed Asner, long active in Central America demonstrations, and Jennifer Casolo, the American churchwoman was arrested last year by the Salvadoran government.

Casolo was accused of aiding left-wing guerrillas and arrested after a cache of weapons was found buried in her backyard. She denied knowing anything about the arms but was expelled to the United States.

Salvadoreans pay homage to Romero

Meanwhile in El Salvador, the poor and the devout flocked by the thousands to pay homage Saturday to the memory of Romero on the tenth anniversary of his assassination.

More than 1,000 people jammed the unfinished downtown cathedral and several thousand more listened to the mass broadcast to the plaza and streets out-

Observers predict fair elections in Hungary

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — Former U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale and Czechoslovak Deputy Premier Jan Carnogursky have said they expected no cheating at Hungary's first free national elections in 43 years.

Mondale, speaking to selected reporters on the eve of the elections for the 394-seat parliament, said there had been a couple of pimplers here and there in the campaigning leading up to Sunday's voting. But he said he had heard of no irregularities much beyond what could be expected in a national U.S. campaign.

I got up this morning, and somebody said they've been tearing down campaign signs, said Mondale Saturday, vice president under Jimmy Carter and the unsuccessful Democratic candidate in the 1984 presidential elections. I said what are you talking about, that could be Minneapolis, said Mondale, referring to his home, the capital of the state of Minnesota.

Carnogursky, like Mondale a member of a 65-member international delegation in Hungary to observe the voting and its prelude, said Czechoslovakia, which holds its first free election in more than four decades June 8-9, could learn from the Hungarian process.

We expect nothing unusual to disturb the democratic process Sunday, Carnogursky, the leading Catholic activist and dissident in Slovakia before the peaceful November anti-Communist revolution in his country, told a reporter.

Gorbachev names key aides to new council

MOSCOW (AP) — President Mikhail Gorbachev has named his key Communist Party advisers to a presidential council in a move to transfer political power from the party that has surrendered its 70-year monopoly to the new, stronger presidential government.

The president's key advisers, Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Alexander Yakovlev, as well as the chiefs of the military and secret police, are among five full or non-voting members of the party's ruling politburo selected for the new presidential advisory group.

By presidential decree, the body will be housed in the Kremlin, where Gorbachev will also have his presidential office.

The presidential council is a mechanism established under legislation passed this month that strengthens the presidency.

TASS, the Soviet News Agency, said Gorbachev picked two well-known writers, an economist

and two parliamentarians — the head of a successful agro-industrial firm in Latvia and a worker from a steel mill in the Urals — to serve on the council.

The constitutional amendments establishing a strong presidency provide for the presidents appointment of a presidential council to be responsible for implementing the major lines of domestic and foreign policy and ensuring the security of the country.

The prime minister, Nikolai Ryzhkov, is the only ex-officio member, and there is no fixed number of appointees, nor any requirement that the council meet as a group.

The body offers Gorbachev a mechanism for bringing his chosen aides and advisers into the government instead of relying on their positions in the party leadership to give them regular access to him.

Marcos trial in U.S. causes mixed feelings in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The trial of Imelda Marcos in New York has prompted some mixed feelings in the Philippines.

On the one hand, many Filipinos are glad to see Mrs. Marcos being brought to account for the alleged looting of the nation's treasury during the 20-year rule of her late husband, Ferdinand Marcos.

But others, notably supporters of the late president, suggest that the trial of a former Philippines first lady on foreign soil is an

affront to national pride.

Mrs. Marcos went on trial last Tuesday in a Manhattan federal court on racketeering charges.

She is charged in the alleged illegal transfer of more than 160 million from the Manila government and defrauding banking institutions of \$165 million more.

President Corason Aquino's administration claims Marcos, his family and associates embezzled up to \$10 billion before he was ousted in the people power revolution four years ago.

Many city dwellers also joined the procession and attended the mass.

Global weather (major world cities)

| | MIN. | ° F | ° C | W. Forecast |
|-----------------|------|-----|-----|-------------|
| AMSTERDAM... | 03 | 37 | 09 | 48 Clear |
| ATHENS... | 05 | 39 | 26 | 79 Clear |
| BANGKOK... | 21 | 77 | 25 | 77 Cloudy |
| BANGKOK... | 26 | 77 | 25 | 77 Cloudy |
| Buenos Aires... | 18 | 60 | 24 | 75 Cloudy |
| CAIRO... | 11 | 52 | 23 | 73 Clear |
| CHICAGO... | -04 | 25 | 05 | 35 Cloudy |
| COPENHAGEN... | 03 | 37 | 10 | 50 Cloudy |
| FRANKFURT... | 03 | 37 | 14 | 57 Cloudy |
| GENOVA... | 14 | 57 | 17 | 63 Clear |
| HONG KONG... | 24 | 75 | 27 | 81 Cloudy |
| ISTANBUL... | 06 | 43 | 19 | 66 Clear |
| LONDON... | 05 | 41 | 10 | 50 Cloudy |
| LOS ANGELES... | 14 | 58 | 22 | 71 Cloudy |
| MADRID... | 06 | 46 | 16 | 61 Rain |
| MECCA... | 28 | 73 | 23 | 81 Cloudy |
| MONTREAL... | -08 | 16 | -01 | 30 Snow |
| MOSCOW... | 05 | 42 | 06 | 43 Cloudy |
| NEW DELHI... | 18 | 65 | 26 | 79 Clear |
| NEW YORK... | 01 | 33 | 04 | 39 Cloudy |
| PARIS... | 04 | 39 | 13 | 55 Cloudy |
| ROME... | 07 | 45 | 19 | 66 Cloudy |
| STOCKHOLM... | 01 | 34 | 14 | 57 Clear |
| SYDNEY... | 08 | 48 | 15 | 59 Clear |
| VIENNA... | 01 | 34 | 14 | 57 Clear |

M: Indicates missing information.